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Mandela halts talks with government

EVATON, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela said Sunday the African National Congress (ANC) had temporarily broken off talks with the white government because it was "murdering our people." The negotiation process "is completely in tatters," the ANC leader told 25,000 supporters at a rally in Evaton, near the Boipatong township south of Johannesburg where about 40 people died in a massacre Wednesday. While direct talks with the government were on hold, Mr. Mandela said at a news conference later that his group remained part of the black-white negotiations that involve 19 parties, including the government. Mr. Mandela said he ordered the cancellation of a meeting with the government scheduled for Tuesday, in which negotiations were to resume. The ANC's leadership would meet to discuss its options, he said. "I instructed (ANC Secretary General Cyril) Ramaphosa that he and his delegation will not have any further discussions with the regime," Mr. Mandela said.

2 killed in blast at Israeli army plant

TEL AVIV (AP) — An explosion rocked an Israeli army munitions factory in central Israel on Sunday, killing two people and injuring five others. Israeli radio reported, the blast occurred at about 9:00 a.m. (GMT) and was apparently accidental. A statement from the military industry's spokesman's office said, "At one of the production installations of the military industries in central Israel there was an explosion during a routine production process. There are several casualties," the statement said, without elaborating. Witnesses at a nearby collective farm said on the radio they had seen a huge mushroom cloud over the factory after the blast, which reportedly shook car and house windows and set off alarms. Army radio described the installation as an ammunition factory. Its exact location was not published in keeping with army censorship regulations. Hospital officials said seven people were injured.

Palestinian shot dead in West Bank

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (R) — A gunman shot dead a 25-year-old Palestinian in an apparent revenge attack on Sunday. Palestinian sources said, Abdul Satar Ahmad Al Idi, a supporter of the Fatah movement, was gunned down at close range as he walked past a Nabulus garage. The sources said he was shot because he was one of three people alleged to have taken part in the killing of a man from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in February. The Israeli army said Idi's body was found on the street shortly after dawn but had no details about his killing. Palestinian sources said Idi came from Fatah's refugee camp northeast of Nabulus. Tension mounted in the camp between Fatah and DFLP supporters when word of his death spread.

Guerrillas attack Israeli patrol

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas clashed with an Israeli patrol inside the Jewish state's self-declared security zone in South Lebanon on Sunday, security sources said. Hizbollah guerrillas blew up an explosive charge on a road in the village of Na'amah on the southern edge of the Bekaa Valley as an Israeli patrol passed by, the sources said. The guerrillas then engaged the patrol with machineguns and rocket grenades, they said. No report on possible casualties was immediately available but a Hizbollah spokesman in Beirut said, "several enemy soldiers were killed or wounded." Israeli helicopter gunships strafed nearby valleys after the attack, the sources said.

Hekmatyar threatens to march on Kabul

KABUL (R) — Radical guerrilla leader Sigmund Hekmatyar was quoted on Sunday as threatening to march on Kabul to fight what he called remnants of communism. He said at a public rally in the eastern Afghan town of Garder on Saturday that the present Kabul government was a hostage to former communist rulers while international plots were being hatched to divide Afghanistan. "I have come here to ask you to unite under a single leadership, take up arms and move towards Kabul to fight against the remnants of communism... to avert the danger of Afghanistan's disintegration," the Pakistan-based Afghan News Agency (ANA) of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party quoted him as saying. He set no deadline for the march, but ANA reported that he asked his followers to reorganize their forces and move towards Kabul because there was "no other way than a military option." (see related story on page 2).

Germany beats Sweden to reach final

STOCKHOLM (R) — World champions Germany reached the European Championship final with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Sweden on Sunday in a tempestuous semi-final. The game ended dramatically with two goals in the final two minutes as Germany went 3-1 up and the Swedes promptly pulled one back. A superbly executed free-kick from Thomas Haessler after 10 minutes, and two clinically-taken goals from Karl-Heinz Riedle in the 59th and 89th minutes were enough to give the Germans victory. But not before the Swedes had given them a fright, twice coming back from two goals down.

Syria to increase its gas output

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian natural gas output will rise to 21 million cubic metres per day with the development of new reserves, according to a study just published. The level would be maintained for 20 years, it said. The research, prepared by Mohammad Radi Al Karwani, chief of the energy department at the planning authority, was presented to a U.N.-sponsored meeting on gas in Damascus. He said new gas finds were expected in areas such as Nebek, some of Damascus, and Tadmur in central Syria. Syria's current gas production is around 6.8 million cubic metres per day.

Israel backs down on threat to arrest peace negotiators

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel backed down on Sunday from its threat to arrest key Palestinians who met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Officials said they would only be questioned on return from Amman, where the meeting took place Thursday. "They won't be arrested. They'll be investigated," police spokesman Tami Paul-Cohen said, leaving open the option that police might take legal steps later. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said in Amman she hoped the softening of Israel's arrest threat meant it was reconsidering a ban on contacts with the PLO. Police sources emphasised that this time they have clear evidence from television footage that the Palestinian delegates met with Mr. Arafat. In previous investigations, the Palestinians have neither denied nor admitted meeting with PLO officials. U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Harrop said the Palestinians' actions were "unwise" and that the PLO was not a part of the peace process. The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported the United States had urged Israel to respond with restraint so as not to torpedo Arab-Israeli peace talks launched last October. The Amman meeting created a dilemma for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose hardline Likud Party is in a neck-and-neck race with Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party ahead of Tuesday's general election. Labour strategists said film of Palestinians hugging and kissing Mr. Arafat proved to the world that Likud, despite its denials, was negotiating with people who talked to the PLO. Labour, which favours swapping some occupied Arab territory for peace, has pledged to talk to anyone representing the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Likud is against any territorial compromise. The State Department, having promised Israel to play down any public PLO role in the peace talks, said it was troubled by the meeting, the first staged for journalists and cameras. Mr. Shamir's Police Minister Ronni Milo vowed on Friday to arrest Dr. Ashrawi, who lives in the West Bank town of Ramallah, the Palestinian team's head adviser Faisal Al Hussein from Arab East Jerusalem, and chief negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi from the Gaza Strip. Leaving a weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, Mr. Milo snapped at reporters: "I'll talk after the election," before speeding off in a government car. On Friday he had declared: "As soon as they return, they will be arrested and all the necessary steps will be taken against them." Dr. Ashrawi said she planned to return in a "couple of days." She expressed hope that Israel's apparent softening of threats signalled it was reconsidering the ban on contacts with the PLO. "They are so unpredictable you never know what they will do but at the same time I hope this signals reconsideration of the whole ban," Dr. Ashrawi told.

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Poll finds ex-generals of Israel favouring land-for-peace deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — More than two-thirds of former Israeli generals favour a land-for-peace settlement with the Palestinians, a survey published on Sunday shows. The study, conducted for the Council for Peace and Security, also indicated that seven in 10 of the retired officers believe adequate security could be worked out if a "substantial part" of the Golan Heights were returned to Syria. The results are the latest indicating that Israel's military is more moderate than the political establishment on how to deal with the occupied Arab territories, said the council's spokesman, reserve Major General Shlomo Gazit. The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, while engaged in peace talks, has said repeatedly it opposes ceding any territory. Gen. Gazit, a former head of military intelligence, told the Associated Press in a phone interview that he did not expect the survey to have an impact on Tuesday's parliament elections because it was released too late to be used for campaign purposes. The survey, printed in most Israeli dailies, was conducted over the past six months by a private polling agency among "hundreds" of former generals and officers of equivalent rank in the Shin Bet and Mossad security services, Gen. Gazit said. The exact number was withheld for security reasons, he said. He added the polling firm asked not to be identified since it is conducting elections surveys and did not want to appear biased. He said 60 per cent of the generals responded, 12 per cent refused and the rest were unavailable. Following are major findings of the poll as reported by the Jerusalem Post: Sixty-eight per cent of them think Israel should give those occupied territories back in exchange for peace that includes appropriate security arrangements, and 71 per cent see reasonable security arrangements if a substantial part of the Golan Heights is returned to Syria. But 31 per cent favour annexation of the territories. The findings were presented by Maj.-Gen. (ret.) Shlomo Gazit, formerly head of military intelligence. (Continued on page 5)

Civil war warning as Ethiopians go to polls

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Ethiopians voted on Sunday in the first democratic election in Africa's oldest independent nation but a powerful political faction warned that alleged irregularities could spark a new civil war. About 33 million Ethiopians were eligible to vote in the poll for a federal-style government, only 13 months after dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam fled into exile. The voting was watched by international observers facing a difficult task in parts of the country where armed groups are not under control of the interim government. In the capital Addis Ababa, 356 polling stations opened in the chilly dawn to a trickle of early voters. The numbers increased later as Ethiopians returned from church services. Lencho Letta, vice-president of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) which has boycotted the elections, told reporters soon after the polls opened that the OLF might withdraw its 12 members from the 67-member transitional National Assembly. "Renewed civil war is inevitable unless the situation improves," he said. The OLF announced its boycott last week, alleging that its officials had been closed and its officials arrested by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The EPRDF has dominated the interim government here since its fighters drove out Col. Mengistu 13 months ago. Poll officials said they had received reports unidentified gunmen killed an Italian priest and two Ethiopians on Saturday near Kebre Mengist town in the OLF stronghold of Sidama region. President Meles Zenawi Meles, speaking to an emergency session of the ruling council of representatives Saturday, said two foreigners had been killed and two wounded in one of the clashes. He did not identify the victims.

Eight deputies oppose political parties while others cannot agree on definition

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Democracy and political pluralism came under heavy attack in the Lower House of Parliament Sunday during the long-awaited opening of debate on a draft law which is intended to organise and legalise political parties. Eight of the 73 deputies present at the opening of the extraordinary session of the Lower House voted against the legalisation of political parties at the outset of the discussions on the draft law. Subsequently the rest of the three-hour session was spent on article three of the draft law which defines political parties. Zarka Deputy Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo told his fellow deputies that the concept of democracy and political parties were both imports from the West and were contrary to the basic principles of Islam. "This pluralism is a foreign concept and we should not be importing western and other foreign concepts to this culture," Sheikh Jammo told the House. "Under the guise of this international democratic demonstration, we in Jordan agreed to starve the people of Iraq by banning them from exporting oil," he said in a harsh attack on the proposed political pluralism. Pluralism which would involve the legalisation of political parties

is anti-Islam and would only serve to divide the Islamic "umma," according to Mr. Jammo. Sheikh Jammo is not a member of either the Muslim Brotherhood bloc nor the independent Islamic bloc in the House. He is officially an independent deputy with no affiliation. The debate on whether to reject the law altogether or to go ahead with discussing its articles was triggered by Deputy Ahmad Owaidi Abbadi (Amman), who asserted that Jordan and Jordanians were not yet ready to embrace political pluralism. He said that while he did not reject political pluralism in principle he thought that Jordan should develop further politically before legalising political parties. He outlined four developmental phases which he believed Jordanians should go through before implementing laws on further political freedoms. The four phases, outlined by Dr. Abbadi, are: 1) creating awareness amongst Jordanians; 2) mobilising Jordanians who are "not up to the political thought of parties"; 3) reorganising the "Jordanian house," and 4) rebuilding social and political structures. Deputies discussed article 3 of the draft law which defines political parties. While the government version of the draft law broadens the definition of "a political party," the Law Committee of the House drew a "much more compact

version of the definition," according to Ajjum Deputy Hussein Mujalli, who heads the committee. The government's version requires parties to define their programmes on social, economic and political issues and stipulates that those programmes would be based on the principle of political pluralism, freedom of expression and the rule of law. The Law Committee's version on the other hand restricts the definition of political parties to a "legal personality" that can only be dissolved in accordance with its own charter or by a high court decision. At the outset of the session, the rapporteur of the Law Committee, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris, presented the committee's report. The committee had debated, amended, and approved the government-proposed draft law during six sessions earlier this year. The amendments and changes proposed by the Law Committee were made without any consultation with specialists outside of the committee except the minister of interior and the minister for parliamentary affairs. Not all the eight deputies who voted against the legalisation of political parties were independent. Four of the eight were members of the national, constitutional or independent Islamic blocs. All three blocs are relatively new political conglomerations

and except for the independent Islamic Bloc they do not have an ideological base. Deputy Abu Faris attempted to include a commentary explaining the amendments in the Law Committee's version of the draft law. Several members of the Law Committee objected to the inclusion of the commentary on the grounds that it represented the views of one man—Mr. Mujalli—and not the entire committee. The discord on including the commentary reflected a widespread feeling among parliamentarians that the drawing up of the law has been left in the hands of "too few." The disagreement on the very issue of legalising political parties has other origins, however, according to parliamentary observers. The opponents are deputies who depended on tribal support during the legislative elections in 1989, according to political observers who attended Sunday's session. They said that traditional and independent politicians stand to lose the most once political parties create strong bases of support based on ideology and field candidates in all constituencies. While deputies belonging to centrist National and Constitutional blocs presented their own definitions of "a political party," Muslim Brotherhood and left-

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Hugs and kisses put PLO in the picture

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Televised hugs and kisses between Yasser Arafat and Palestinian leaders from the occupied lands were aimed at boosting the standing of both in Arab eyes without jeopardising the peace process, officials say. The tactic appears to have at least partly paid off. Israel, which had threatened to immediately arrest the Palestinian peace negotiators when they returned from Jordan, softened its stand on Sunday saying it would only question them if we are restricted to whom we can meet among the Palestinians this will affect negatively our credibility as a delegation... both within the occupied territories and (among) the Palestinians (of) the diaspora," said senior team member Ghassan Al Khatib. Palestinians in the violence-hit West Bank and Gaza appear to be increasingly frustrated with the slow pace of peace talks they want to see achieve a speedy Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-rule.

The Palestinian team came has been under heavy criticism since last year's start of the peace process by accepting a role which publicly excluded Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), regarded by most Palestinians as their legitimate leadership. The organisation, which fought headline opposition to back the talks with Israel, has been barred from a direct role in the talks by Israel which regards it as a terrorist organisation bent on the destruction of the Jewish state. "This is not the first time," Mr. Arafat told Reuters after meeting the delegates on Thursday, recalling other, more discreet meetings. But it was the first time that television cameras and photographers were invited to record the event, providing irrefutable proof of Israel of the team's close links with the PLO. The Palestinians gambled that Israel would not risk arresting negotiators only days before Tuesday's general elections in which the peace process is a key issue.

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Palestinians debate negotiating strategy

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The focus of the Palestinian meetings currently taking place in Amman, which are expected to end today or tomorrow, is to establish a general strategy for future Middle East negotiations that could be adapted to whatever type of new government is formed in Israel and for further coordination with Jordan, according to well-informed Palestinian sources and PLO officials. When the general Palestinians strategy is transformed into tactics and positions on the negotiating table, it could "adapt to whatever kind of Israeli government is going to be in power" at the time the next round of negotiations begin, says Palestinian negotiator Ghassan Khatib. The Palestinian delegate would not give details of the strategy that is taking form during the Amman meetings, but he says that specifics are difficult to define at this stage, "especially that there will be changes as a result of the Israeli elections."

seem to be running neck and neck in the current campaign, it could take a few months before a government is formed. Statistically speaking, it has taken Israel 50 days on average to form a government after each election. Mr. Khatib describes preparations for holding Palestinian elections and the sources of authority for the Palestinian interim self-government arrangements (PIS-GA) as the most important issue being discussed at these meetings. "Any government needs an authority and we believe that it should be an elected body," he maintains. "We need a source of authority and for us, it should either be the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or an elected body." Since a public role by the PLO has been rejected by both the Americans and Israelis, the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks proposes "general legislative political elections" in the occupied territories that will result in a Palestinian source of authority during the

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Small parties oppose Czechoslovakia division

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak politicians, worried about a weekend agreement heralding the likely break-up of their country, say the people or parliament — and not the two biggest parties — must decide their future. "We insist that the future state set-up is not decided by representatives of two political parties," the small Democratic Party said in a statement. "The decision about such an important step belongs only to the citizens of this state by means of a referendum." The leaders of the two dominant parties, Czech Vaclav Klaus and his Slovak rival Vladimir Meciar, agreed Saturday that a new federal government should prepare the split of Czechoslovakia into two independent states. Such steps would have to be sanctioned by the federal parliament, which convenes on Monday following elections which highlighted the deep divisions between Czech and Slovaks and led rapidly to a political crisis. Under the agreement between Mr. Klaus and Mr. Meciar, unable to agree how to keep Czechoslovakia together, the federal assembly would eventually be subsumed into the two regional parliaments of the Czech and Slovak republics.

A constitutional divorce would be engineered through an agreement between the regional parliaments, to be prepared by Sept. 30. Two independent states could be created soon afterwards. While both Mr. Klaus and Mr. Meciar say it is too early to talk about the definitive end of the 74-year-old common state of Czechs and Slovaks, their head-on clashes and irreconcilable differences in four rounds of post-election negotiations have polarised the country. "Confrontational attitudes can lead to short-term success but at the same time to the loss of the good name of the national and its credibility in the world," the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) said. KDH leader Jan Carnogursky is set to lose his job as Slovak regional premier to Mr. Meciar soon after the new Slovak Regional Council meets on Tuesday. Mr. Carnogursky and his party were key players in talks between Czech and Slovak leaders over the past 18 months which failed to find a way for Slovak demands for greater autonomy to be incorporated within a continuing Czechoslovak federation. Mr. Meciar's Movement for a

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Iraqi paper demands U.S. pay for damaged crops

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Nearly 41,000 Iraqis, including more than 14,000 children, died in the first four months of this year because of the U.N. economic sanctions, a senior Iraqi health official said Sunday. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Under-Secretary of Health Abdul Jabbar Abdul Abbas as saying the fatalities were due to shortages of food and medicine. Mr. Abdul Abbas said many of men, women and children died because hospitals were unable to treat them. He cited respiratory problems, kidney malfunctions, infectious diseases, cancer and cardiovascular ailments as the main causes of death. All told, he said 40,908 people died between Jan. 1 and April 30, including 14,678 children under 5 years old. Mr. Abdul Abbas' figures would put the Iraqi death toll since the war at well over 100,000. International relief agencies also have reported large numbers of deaths caused by the effects of sanctions. Last December, the government said that more than 68,000 people, including nearly 19,000 children under five, had died in

the preceding five months. Statistics for other periods were not available. Meanwhile, an Iraqi newspaper said Sunday the United States should pay compensation for damage to farms which Baghdad said was caused by American warplanes. Iraq said Thursday that U.S. fighter-bombers set thousands of tonnes of harvested wheat and barley on fire by dropping illumination flares over farms in the north of the country. The Iraqi News Agency quoted the Al Jumhuriya daily as saying in a front-page editorial: "The U.S. administration is directly responsible for the damage inflicted on the farms' owners and... it should pay for the damage." Al Jumhuriya also demanded "the perpetrators of this horrible crime... which inflicted huge material damage on our people" should be put on trial. Iraqi farmers have urged humanitarian organisations to help stop U.S. bombing of crop fields in northern Iraq which they said threatened the country with famine. The Iraqi News Agency (INA)

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Mojaddidi seeks to hold power

KABUL (R) — Interim Afghan President Sighatullah Mojaddidi said on Sunday he would not hand over power to a successor as scheduled but would transfer governmental authority to a 64-person council he heads.

"The president said he would not hand power to any individual," Mojaddidi spokesman Abdul Raziq said. "He will give authority to the Jihad Council."

Analysts in Kabul see his statement as a bid to build a coalition of moderate Muslims to keep more radical Islamic factions from dominating Afghanistan. Afghan rebel forces took Kabul on April 26 in the climax to their 14-year civil war.

Under an agreement between seven guerrilla groups, Mr. Mojaddidi was to serve as acting president for a transitional period of two months.

Not later than June 28, he was to transfer power to Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of the Jamiat-e-Islami group which has pledged to establish a radical new Islamic order in Afghanistan.

The broadly-representative Jihad Council, with Mr. Mojaddidi as head, was to be the transitional government until Prof. Rabbani assumed office.

But instead of biding their time as caretakers, Mr. Mojaddidi and the Jihad Council distributed cabinet ministries among guerrilla factions.

Earlier this week Mr. Mojaddidi beamed up the council, adding eight members from the Hezb-e-Wahdaat, an Iranian-backed Shiite guerrilla group that recently engaged in a deadly round of street fighting with Saudi-backed Sunni Muslims of the Ittehad-e-Islami.

In the murky world of Afghan politics, Shiites and their Iranian

backers are assumed to prefer a more secular Muslim government to a fundamentalist one which would be dominated by Afghanistan's Sunni majority.

The interim president also added five members from northern Afghanistan to the Jihad Council and stated his personal preference to exclude Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a fiery Sunni fundamentalist, from any share of power.

Possession being at least nine-tenths of the law in Kabul at the moment, those with presidential offices, cabinet ministries and positions of influence on the Jihad Council see little reason to give them up.

If Mr. Mojaddidi's bid to consolidate power at the expense of radicals like Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr. Rabbani is increasingly clear, the reaction of key Afghan military and political figures is not.

Mr. Rabbani is reported to have flown to Saudi Arabia in recent days whether for religious or political reasons is not clear.

Charismatic Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud is a member of Mr. Mojaddidi's government, but he follows Mr. Rabbani and his politics are more radical than moderate.

The most powerful military force in Afghanistan is the Uzbek militia of General Rashid Dostum, which dominates Kabul and the north.

Gen. Dostum forces came over to the rebel side in March through an alliance with Mr. Massoud, but they seem comfortable with Mr. Mojaddidi.

Mr. Hekmatyar, who so far has refused to join a government headed by Mr. Mojaddidi and kept in power by Dostum forces, has armed forces massed to the south of Kabul.

Egypt: Arab World united for peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Middle East peace process "has united all the Arab countries to negotiate peace between Arabs and Jews, and to chart a new future for the region," Egyptian Ambassador Sayed Abdul Raouf Al Reedy said Friday.

"It is the most promising peace process since Camp David. Now the real challenge is to translate the potential into reality," Mr. Reedy told a gathering of diplomats and U.S. officials who gathered here in his honour.

The retiring Egyptian envoy, who has been ambassador to the U.S. since November 1984, spoke at a luncheon in recognition of his 37-year diplomatic career and his contribution to peace in the Middle East. The event was hosted by the National Association of Arab Americans.

Among those joining in the diplomatic tribute were ambassadors Abdullah Ahmad Abdallah from Yemen; Mohsin A. Alami, of Sudan; Abdul Rahman Bin Fares Al Khalifa of Bahrain; Mohammed Belkhaty of Morocco; Hussein A. Hammami of Jordan; and a large contingent from the Arab diplomatic corps of Egypt, Oman, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Among the U.S. officials were the keynote speaker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Dan Kurtzer, whose remarks were off the record; Edmund Hall, director of the Office of Near East and South Asian Affairs at the National Security Council; Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth, former ambassador to Jordan; Fred Azeigard from the office of weapons policy, and Peter Bechtold of the Foreign Service Institute.

Gabe Phillips, on behalf of the National Association of Arab Americans NAAA, presented Mr. Reedy with a plaque in recognition of "distinguished contributions to peace, improved U.S.-Arab relations, and enhanced ties between Arab-Americans, the people of Egypt, and the people of the Arab World."

Mr. Reedy who has been deeply involved in the peace process as Egyptian ambassador for the past eight years, said Arab Americans are a force for peace between Arabs and Jews.

Pledging his own continued support and counsel in moving the peace process forward, he cautioned that the Arab World "is in a state of evolution... of finding its communal existence under the sun, defining and redefining its role and its future. It is bound to have differences," Mr. Reedy said.

Death toll may rise in blast at Libyan depot

AL SIWANA, Libya (Agencies) — A Libyan official said Sunday the U.N. air embargo may increase the death toll in a powerful explosion that ripped through an arms depot outside Tripoli.

The Health Ministry official said the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council in April were preventing some people from receiving treatment abroad.

The explosion Saturday killed at least 10 people and injured 143. It was caused by a fire in an arms depot used to store hunting rifles, ammunition and explosives imported by Libyan civilians.

The blast, heard up to 20 kilometres away in Tripoli, damaged buildings, blew rooftops off houses and shattered windows more than four kilometres.

The official, quoted by the Libyan news agency IANA, said one person already had died because of a lack of treatment.

It was feared more would die because they were unable to receive urgent operations or delicate plastic surgery unavailable in Libya, IANA quoted the source as saying.

Many of the victims were too ill to be transported abroad by sea, he said.

The U.N. Security Council imposed air, arms and diplomatic sanctions on Libya April 15 after the country refused to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is in Sirte, about 500 kilometres southeast of Tripoli, attending the General People's Congress.

The legislature will decide whether to surrender the two Libyans to the United States or Britain.

'Valuable clues' on IRA

Libya has handed over the names of up to 20 top Irish Republican Army (IRA) members it trained in special camps over the last two decades to the British intelligence service, the Sunday Times reported.

Poll finds Palestinians expect Likud to form new government

AMMAN (I.T.) — A public opinion poll carried out in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip last month showed that 39.3 per cent of Palestinians expected the Likud Party to form the new Israeli government after Tuesday's elections, compared with 25.7 per cent who said that the Labour Party, will form the government.

The opinion poll, which covered 467 people from the occupied West Bank and 360 from the Gaza Strip, found that 18.4 per cent expected Likud and Labour to form a coalition government.

Answering other questions, only 9.7 per cent said there would be prospects of peace if Likud takes power while 53.5 per cent expected the current situation to remain as it is, and 31.7 per cent said there would be no chances for peace.

A list of the guerrillas was handed to M15 officers at a briefing with Libyan officials in Geneva earlier this month, the paper said.

The revelations were made on the orders of Colonel Qadhafi who is anxious to improve relations with the West, the paper said, adding that the Libyan-trained guerrillas now form the IRA's elite core.

The extent of the Libyan training and cash supplied to the IRA was far greater than previously thought and security officials were now scrutinising the information to try and find valuable clues, the paper said.

"We didn't get all the answers but the list is impressive," one intelligence source was quoted as saying. "We are now trying to match the people we know with the names they gave us."

The Sunday Times said the Libyan government said at another meeting with a senior Foreign Office official earlier this month that it supplied the IRA with 10 tonnes of semtex explosive, rifles, pistols, detonators, timing devices and ammunition.

The Tripoli government said it supplied millions of pounds to the IRA, making it the IRA's single most important paymaster in the 1980s, the paper said.

They provided comprehensive answers on the arms supplies, which appear accurate," one intelligence source said. "We were less satisfied with their answers on just who they have trained and when, and we will be going back to them for more details."

Prime Minister John Major said Thursday that Libya had told Britain it would cease arming Irish guerrillas fighting British rule in Northern Ireland but so far there was no sign of this happening.

Britain had long demanded that Libya provide details of its links to the IRA as a condition for improving relations severed in 1984 after a British peace-woman was killed outside the Libyan embassy.

Extremism alarms Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt needs tougher legislation to fight an unprecedented wave of political extremism, Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa told parliament.

"We must review the legal situation if we want to end extremism and terrorism," Mr. Musa said late Saturday, in the first official comment on the assassination earlier this month of secularist writer Faraj Foda by Muslim extremists.

Mr. Musa said Egypt's current emergency law, in force since Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, offered guarantees which helped "the elements of extremism and terrorism to shake security and stability."

Political violence has risen markedly in Egypt since the start of the year. Security sources report almost daily clashes between police and Muslim extremists, who last month killed 13 Christians in Egypt's worst case of sectarian strife for a decade.

Parliamentary sources said the Interior Ministry was studying several proposed drafts for a new law on terrorism which would be submitted to parliament after the summer recess in August.

"Extremism and terrorism are presenting the most dangerous threat to the principles of freedom and democracy in the long history (of these ideas)," Mr. Musa told parliament.

Security forces said Foda was on a list of secular Egyptian writers and intellectuals marked down for assassination by the Jihad group.

No details of proposed new laws were immediately available and it was not clear if they would replace or supplement Egypt's system of emergency law, which allows authorities to detain suspects without trial for renewable periods of 15 and 30 days.

Human rights groups say authorities have used the current law to detain some political activists effectively for over two years without trial by releasing and then immediately re-arresting them.

Three killed in shootout

Muslim extremists seeking revenge for the death of two fellow militants killed three people Saturday in a southern Egyptian village, police officials said.

The dead included two Christian Copts and a Muslim soldier, the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said.

Several armed extremists in the village of Sanabo entered the clinic of Dr. Barzi Al Nahal, killing him, and an associate, Magdi Zaki Girgis, security officials said. Both were Coptic Christians.

A shootout ensued between extremists and security forces, leaving one Muslim soldier dead and four other injured. Three bystanders also were injured in crossfire, officials said.

Security forces arrested 20 extremists after the shootout Saturday.

In a gun battle Friday, security forces killed two militants in Sanabo, about 60 kilometres north of the provincial capital Assiut. Two schoolboys also were wounded.

Security officials said extremists demonstrated in the streets Saturday seeking revenge for the death of the two militants, one of whom was the leader of a local Muslim group, the officials said.

The recent clashes between security forces and militants grew out of a nationwide police alert ordered last month after Muslim extremists shot to death 13 Coptic Christians and one Muslim in Manshiet Nassir, 40 kilometres north of Assiut.

The clash brought casualties in southern Egypt this month to eight dead and 22 wounded.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Polisario blasts Moroccan election plans

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front on Sunday attacked Morocco's plans to include the disputed Western Sahara in its national elections, saying it turned the United Nations presence there into a "grotesque spectacle." Reacting to a Moroccan statement that legislative elections would be held this year regardless of when a U.N. referendum on self-determination went ahead in the Western Sahara, the Polisario said: "The Moroccan government wants, in this year, to reduce the deployment of a U.N. contingent to a simple tourist visit... just to applaud a grotesque spectacle." In a statement, the front called on the U.N. and Security Council to intervene with the "occupying power" to preserve the gains from the ceasefire and give peace its chance in this region of Northwest Africa. A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire last September formally ended nearly 16 years of conflict in the former Spanish colony where Polisario guerrillas had been battling Moroccan rule. A referendum to give Saharans a choice between independence or integration with Morocco, due to be held last January, has been postponed because of a dispute over who is eligible to vote.

Gunman kills Algerian police officer

ALGIERS (R) — A gunman shot dead a police officer as he returned home with his two daughters, aged five and six, in the Algerian town of Laghouat at the weekend, the official news agency APS said. The killing, in the town some 400 kilometres from Algiers, brings to around 70 the number of policemen killed in isolated attacks since mid-February. The gunman escaped. APS said a para-military gendarme, stabbed inside a hospital in Algeria on Thursday, died from his wounds. The authorities blame extremists linked to the banned Islamic Salvation Front for most of the attacks.

Rebel Kurds kill 3 soldiers in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's separatist Kurdish rebels killed three soldiers in a clash in the southeastern province of Kahramanmaraş, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said on Saturday. Another soldier was wounded in the gunfight with the guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) that occurred Friday, it said. Some 3,900 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 in the PKK's fight for an independent Kurdish State in the region.

Turkish minister refuses to fly economy class

CAIRO (R) — Turkish Health Minister Yildirim Aktuna refused on Saturday to fly to the tourist town of Aswan, Egypt, in economy class, airport sources said. Mr. Aktuna, on a four-day official visit, and 10 companions insisted on flying first class but Egyptair refused to upgrade them, saying the Egyptian Health Ministry purchased economy class tickets. The minister disembarked and asked for cars to transport his delegation back to their Cairo hotel, the sources added. Jet aircraft cover the some 900-kilometre trip to Aswan, south of Cairo, in about an hour.

Pope urges healing in Lebanon

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II on Saturday urged Lebanese to strive for a "conversion of hearts and minds" that he hoped would begin healing the society torn by civil war. "After such prolonged suffering, we are perfectly aware that we are all brothers, that our Lebanon is more than a country, that it is... a message of brotherhood, liberty and dialogue," the Pope said in a message to Lebanese bishops that was released by the Vatican. Pope John Paul also encouraged Lebanese Muslims to work with Roman Catholics there to help rebuild the country and its brotherly communion after 16 years of devastating civil war.

Former hostage thanks supporters

LORAIN, Ohio (AP) — Former hostage Terry Anderson returned to the town where he was born Saturday to thank those who gave him hope during nearly seven years of captivity in Lebanon. Mr. Anderson came to Lorain for a weekend visit including a private family reunion. He was to be grand marshal of the Lorain International Festival Parade Sunday. "It's a little disconcerting being a celebrity," said Mr. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. "People recognise me on the street. They come up and say, 'hi, welcome home.' I'm a journalist, you know. I'm supposed to be sitting down there with the notebook. Suddenly I'm up here, answering the questions and making the end of the Free Terry Anderson Committee, which was established in early 1986 at the request of Mr. Anderson's father, Glenn. The elder Anderson died less than a year after his son was abducted March 16, 1985, by the Islamic jihad, Mr. Anderson was freed Dec. 4.

Saudi prince's attorney denies allegations

HOUSTON (AP) — The lawyer representing Saudi Prince Saad Al Abdul Aziz Al Saud has denied charges that the prince enslaved two female servants in a hotel. "The ladies went up and down the elevators and could leave the floor," attorney Craig Smyser, who represents the prince, told the Houston Chronicle in Saturday's editions. "The women were not prisoners." Mr. Smyser said two investigations so far had turned up no indication of criminal activity on the two floors where Prince Saad and his former wife, Princess Noora Nadarsiah, lived with their retinue. In a lawsuit filed against the prince, Josephine Alcock of the Philippines and Srinay Madan Fernando of Sri Lanka say they were only partially and infrequently paid, denied medical treatment, suffered mental and physical abuse and were retrained against their will.

U.S. ambassador dismisses Scud claims

TEL AVIV (R) — The U.S. ambassador to Israel on Saturday dismissed charges by a former Israeli air force chief that the United States did not try to stop Scud missile attacks on Israel during the Gulf war. "The statements... are an irresponsible reason of the kind I haven't heard in a long time," Ambassador William Harrop told the Israeli news agency on Saturday. In a statement republished by Israeli officials, Avihu Bin Nun, commander of Israel's air force during the six-week war, told reporters on Thursday: "The key question is — did the Americans try to stop the Scud launches against Israel and Saudi Arabia. It's not that they didn't succeed. They didn't try." Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, responding to a reporter's question on Friday, said about the statement: "It's unacceptable to me."

Ultra-orthodox likely kingmakers once again in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — It appears increasingly likely that ultra-orthodox parties will once again shape Israel's next governing coalition.

Opinion polls have given the Labour Party headed by Yitzhak Rabin an edge over the right-wing Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in elections Tuesday. But the surveys show neither group has enough support from other parties to form a coalition government.

In that case, the balance of power should fall to the ultra-orthodox parties, which are expected to win about 12 seats in the 120-member parliament. Most past governments also have depended on religious parties to reach a majority in parliament.

Ironically, the role of kingmaker would lie with a band of elderly rabbis who are vehemently opposed to the secular majority in Israel and, in theory, do not even accept the Jewish state.

The religious are now allied with Likud, but they can swing to the left because they do "not place the same importance on the central issue of the election: 'security'."

"They don't think the (occupied) territories are something special. They can give some of them back or they don't have to give any back," said Hanan Crystal, a political commentator for the Hadasot daily newspaper. "What is most important to them are the religious issues."

The two main ultra-orthodox parties — Shas, an acronym for Torah Guardians, and the United Torah Judaism Party — have said they prefer Likud.

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, head of Shas, told supporters Wednesday the faction would "under no circumstances" support a Labour government.

Shas constituents are the Sephardic Jews — those of Middle Eastern background — who have painful memories of the humiliating and discriminatory treatment of their families by the powerful Labour establishment of the 1950s.

But it was Shas that sided with Labour in 1990 to bring

down a Likud-led government. Then it realigned with Likud to form another government.

One election scenario is that Labour will get enough votes to combine with left-leaning and Arab parties to block Likud from forming the next cabinet. Some say the religious faction could then side with Labour if its demands were met.

Among the ultra-orthodox demands are greater funding for religious seminaries and legislation ordering businesses closed for the Jewish Sabbath.

But one complication is that the religious parties are divided. The behind-the-scenes leader of the United Torah faction, Lithuanian-born Rabbi Eliezer Schach, created a

stir last week by saying Sephardic Jews were not "ripe" enough to rule.

But Rabbi Schach, in his 90s and known for emotional speeches combining Yiddish and Hebrew, saved his violence for secular Israelis.

"You have no connection to God," Rabbi Schach said of secular Jews at a rally Wednesday before 12,000 supporters.

The religious parties' political manoeuvring in 1990 so angered Israel's secular majority that a grassroots movement pushed through an electoral reform bill allowing for direct election of the prime minister.

The reform is supposed to lessen the need for coalition deals. But it will not begin until the next election.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Au Clair De La Lune
18:10 Le Monde Sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Close to Home
21:10 Euro '92 soccer: Germany vs. Sweden
22:00 News in English
22:30 The second half of the match
23:00 Gold

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:36 Dhuha
16:16 'Asr
19:47 Maghrib
21:22 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetich, Tel. 610740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 631440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717361
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Assumption International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823284, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675491

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and humid, and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the eastern and northern parts of Jordan. Winds will be northwesterly fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Amman, it will be dusty with northerly fresh winds and very haze.

AMMAN

Min./Max. temp. 18/28
Amman 22/35
Dhahran 16/30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Jabali 740740
Dr. Ahmed Dahesh 791257
Dr. Walid Sawahneh 779997
Dr. Salim Debsah 767271
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Katrash pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646445
Shmied pharmacy 637660

NUMBERS

Jordan Valley 20 / 35

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 29, Amman 37, Humidity readings: Amman 53 per cent, Amman 26 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Jabali 740740
Dr. Ahmed Dahesh 791257
Dr. Walid Sawahneh 779997
Dr. Salim Debsah 767271
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Katrash pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646445
Shmied pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 894002
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630821
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 845845
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

OVERSEAS CALLS

Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repsol 623101
Abdali Telephone Repsols 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636811
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813812/22
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642612
Aishah Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmied 664714
Shmied Hospital 669151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667277
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Abi, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:15 Suma (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Cambruge, Tunis (RJ)
21:00 Bangkok (RJ)
09:19 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:25 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
16:30 Istanbul (TK)
19:20 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
20:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:30 Amsterdam, Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
21:00 Dhahran (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
14:25 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
17:30 Istanbul (TK)
21:30 Cairo (MS)
22:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upward price in \$/kg per 100
Apples (red) 500/600
Bananas 500/450
Ban

ICARDA, GTZ to hold workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) are organising a Regional Seed Network workshop in Amman from 22-25 June 1992. The workshop will be opened Monday by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ghaleb Abu Urabi, according to an ICARDA press release.

Thirty senior scientists and officials working in seed technology and production will participate in the workshop. Participants represent the 12 countries of Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, Cyprus and Libya. In addition, representatives from the International Centers and Regional Organisations involved in seed production will attend.

The four-day workshop will discuss the importance of regional cooperation in seed technology and production to benefit farmers of the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. The participants will discuss the need for establishing a seed network for West Asian and North African countries that will facilitate the exchange of information, materials, seed testing techniques and standard procedures for high-quality seed production. The network will also identify complementary between WANA countries in seed, which will avoid duplication and maximise the utilisation of limited resource, the statement said.



Thousands crowd to pay homage to prominent Muslim Brotherhood member Ahmad Qataish Al Azaideh

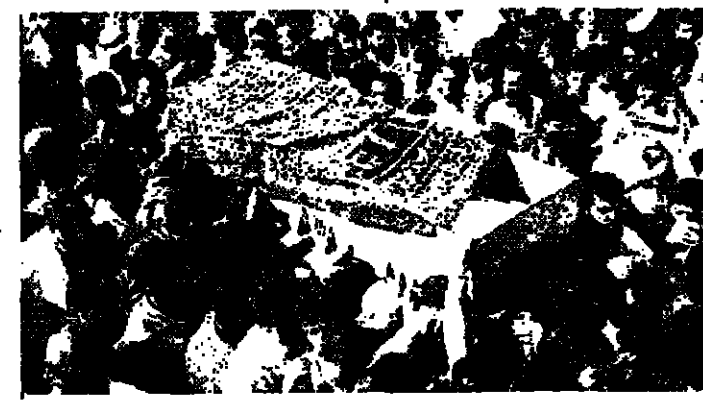
Azaideh laid to rest; 5,000 attend funeral

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Muslim Brotherhood leader and Parliament member Ahmad Qataish Al Azaideh, was laid to rest Sunday at his hometown of Madaba, 30 kilometres south of Amman.

The funeral was attended by at least 5,000 mourners. Mr. Azaideh, who passed away Saturday at the age of 44 after a prolonged battle with cancer, was eulogised by several notables at the funeral. Tribute was paid to

Mr. Azaideh for his social and political activities in parliament, and in Madaba Municipality where he served as mayor for several years, and for his endeavours in Islamic causes.

Among those who paid tribute to the late deputy at his graveside were Lower House speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat representing Parliament, Hamzeh Mansour who represented the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in Parliament,



Among the mourners were

Ishaq Al Farhan, head of the newly-founded Islamic Action Front, Abdul Majid Thneibat from the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Abdul Majid Alwai from the Muslim Brotherhood in Madaba district, a member of the Azaideh family, a representative of the Muslim Brotherhood in Madaba town and Saif Al Banna, a representative of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

Among the mourners were

Amman governor Issa Al Omari, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, several ministers and Parliament members, Muslim scholars, heads of municipal councils and public figures.

Informed sources within the Muslim Brotherhood movement said that Deputy Hamzeh Mansour was slated to succeed Mr. Azaideh as spokesperson for the Brotherhood's 23 deputies.

Trade talks aim to balance Jordanian-Turkish trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The balance of trade between Turkey and Jordan heavily favours Turkey, but the bilateral trade talks due to open here Monday are expected to help promote Jordanian exports to Ankara, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Ministry officials were quoted Sunday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that Jordan in 1991 imported \$57 million worth of Turkish products, and exported \$13.7 million worth of phosphate, potash, cigarettes, and raw leather.

The ministry said that Jordan's imports included Turkish consumer goods, tyres, metal sheets, boilers and heaters.

The figures were released on the eve of the start of talks by the joint Jordanian-Turkish Economic Committee to be co-chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade

Abdullah Easour and Turkish Minister of State Erman Sahin. Petra said that the two sides would review past trade operations between Jordan and Turkey and would chart plans for future cooperation in trade and economic affairs.

The two sides are scheduled to discuss ways to promote trade and adjust the balance of trade between the two countries by exporting more Jordanian products to Turkey, the ministry officials said.

They said that Turkey and Jordan had signed a trade agreement in 1966, followed by an agreement on settling payments for imported products through the national central banks in Ankara and Amman. They also said that the two countries later signed agreements on tourism and on air and land transport.

Apart from the talks on trade and economic cooperation, the joint committee is expected to discuss Turkey's contributions to the restoration of Islamic archaeological sites in the Kingdom and the prospect of setting up a joint Jordanian-Turkish investment company benefiting from Turkish expertise in agriculture and maintenance of farming equipment, said the officials.

The Jordanian side to the talks will include ministry officials as well as representatives of the Jordanian Phosphate and Potash Companies which will try to sell more of their products to Turkey, the officials said.

The last high-level talks between Ankara and Amman were held in May 1991 when the Jordanian foreign minister met with Turkish leaders in Ankara to discuss politics and commerce.

SSC readies health plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is involved in the preparation of plans for a health insurance system to cover all workers and their families, according to SSC Public Relations Director Ali Issa. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Issa as saying that the SSC has reached agreement with the University of Jordan to conduct studies on implementing such a scheme and the results are expected before the end of this year.

Mr. Issa noted that nearly one million Jordanians would benefit from the proposed health system. The SSC, established in 1979, began with a capital of JD 100,000 increasing to JD 448 million by the end of last April. Mr. Issa said he expected the SSC capital to reach JD 1 billion by the end of this decade.

The SSC, Mr. Issa said, pays nearly JD 1 million a month to retired workers who paid premiums to the corporations over the past 10 years. The SSC covers old-age pension and occupational injuries for all workers under the provision of the SSC law. But according to the same law, the SSC still has to cover all workers and their families with a health insurance, Mr. Issa added.

The SSC currently pays JD 900,000 annually for the treatment of workers and continues to compensate those who are no longer employed, Mr. Issa said. SSC funds are invested in industrial, agricultural, housing, tourism, and financial sectors to bring in profits benefiting the beneficiaries.

Further, more, the SSC offers loans for housing, especially to organisations and government departments that aim to help employees have their own homes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Samer Obdeidat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Cabinet passes supply budget

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday evening approved a JD57 million budget for the trading account of the Ministry of Supply.

The budget concerns the ministry's dealings with the buying and selling of consumer products for the local markets and the operation of the ministry-owned flour mills, silos, bakeries etc.

The cabinet also approved the minutes of a recent meeting of

the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Committee. The meeting decided to increase trade cooperation between the two countries on the basis of free exchange of commodities. According to the minutes, the two sides have agreed to enhance industrial cooperation by intensifying visits by representatives of various economic sectors in the two countries. The two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in health-related fields.

Jordan to attend talks on Arab media cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 47th session of the Executive Board of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and the union's 16th session to be held in Damascus Tuesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The board will discuss the Union's administrative report on its programme, exchange news reports, sports activities research and Arab-international cooperation. The board will also discuss preparations for covering major sports events and recommendations for a symposium on the development of communication technology in TV and Radio

news. Reports by the Arab Centre for Exchange of News and Programmes and by the Arab Centre for Radio and Television Training will also be reviewed.

Participants will also discuss a memo by the union's administration on the status of the Paris-based Orient Radio, which is an affiliate member of the union and a memo on nominations for leading posts.

Also on the agenda is a Jordanian proposal on media coverage of major political events of interest to the Arab World, including the multilateral peace talks.

Iranian deputy minister arrives for first-ever industrial products fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iran's Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Mr. Mahdi Mufidi arrived in Amman Sunday at the head of a delegation on a three-day visit for talks on economic and trade relations with Jordan. Mr. Mufidi will open Monday the first Iranian industrial fair to be held in Jordan aimed at familiarising Jordan with Iranian products and promoting Jordanian-Iranian trade.

The week-long Iranian Fair is the implementation of an agreement signed by Jordan and Iran last year that called for the two countries to organise fairs to meet orient people on their products and encourage trade.

Iran and Jordan signed a letter of understanding for economic and commercial cooperation in August 1991. The letter signed in Tehran during the last round of

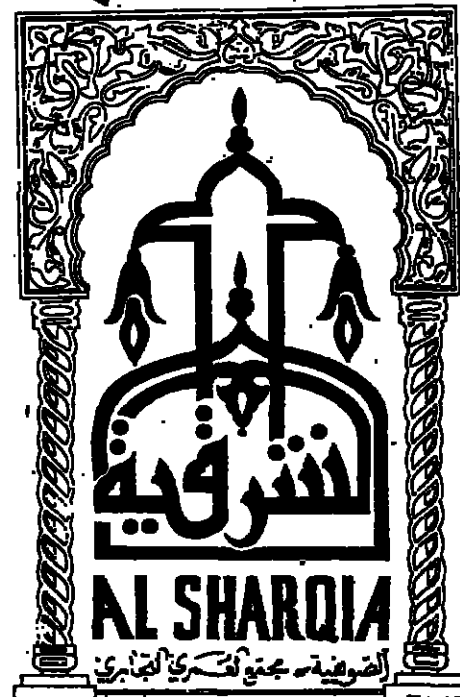
talks between the Jordanian minister of industry and trade and his Iranian counterpart provides for an exchange of visits to assess scopes of bilateral cooperation and organise fairs in Tehran and Amman to promote the sale of Iranian and Jordanian products.

Iran said that Jordan demanded to buy Iranian fish and tobacco, among other items, while Iran would continue to purchase part of its phosphate requirements from Jordan.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee to meet periodically in Amman and Tehran to follow-up on the implementation of agreements between them.

Iran also agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of fertilisers worth \$65 million last year.

AL SHARQIA FOR EMBROIDERIES



announces the opening of its summer season by presenting to customers a beautiful and high-quality set of embroidered silk cloth "Paul Salon." We also received a magnificent variety of long Arabic dresses (dashdash) and silk scarfs, as well as tapestries, accessories and various embroideries.

We specialise in embroidery silms and threading, Indian style, to match the latest world of fashion.

AL SHARQIA FOR EMBROIDERIES
Sweifeh, Al Omari Shopping Centre. (We are within Al Omari Shopping Centre ground floor-access through the main entrance, between Reem Stores and the Golden Thread "Al Khalt Al Dhahabi").

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, India air agreement approved

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal decree was issued Sunday approving an agreement on air transport services between Jordan and India. The agreement organises the passage and stoppage of planes carrying passengers and goods between the two countries and gives equal opportunities to air carriers in both countries to operate on specified routes.

Conditions set for renewing firms' licences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation announced Sunday that it would allow industrial firms which did not fully adhere to public safety conditions to renew their operation licences till the end of 1992, provided that they solve problems resulting from wastewater discharged by their plants before the end of the specified period. Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mu'tez Al Bilbeisi said this measure was taken to keep these factories operating without polluting the environment, especially resources.

JCO, EC officials meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Jamal Bedour met Sunday with a delegation representing the European Community (EC) currently visiting the Kingdom. The meeting reviewed issues related to cattle breeding projects in Jordan.

PSD head leaves for Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director, Major-General Fadel Ali left Amman Sunday at the head of a PSD delegation for Germany and France. During his ten-day stay in Germany and France, Maj.-Gen. Ali will be familiarised with the advanced training programmes at police training centres in the two countries. He will also be acquainted with equipment used by police forces in the two countries to reveal crimes.

Environment symposium to be held

SALT (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution will organise Tuesday in Salt city a symposium on health and environment. The chairman of the society, Senator Ahmad Obdeidat, will deliver at the symposium an opening address which will be followed by lectures on health, environment, diseases caused by pollution, pharmaceutical industries and hospital waste and their effect on human health as well as environmental planning in Salt.

French journalists visit south

AQABA (Petra) — A team of French journalists is currently on a visit to Aqaba city. The visit aims to promote Aqaba on the international tourism map and to acquaint the French people with its touristic attractions. The team, which consists of seven journalists working for French newspapers and magazines, lauded the distinguished services offered to them during their stay and praised the natural attractions in the city. The team will also visit archaeological sites in Wadi Rum and Petra to get familiarised with the unique archaeological treasures of Jordan.

Saudia appoints Intermarkets

Intermarkets Advertising has recently won the prestigious Saudi Arabian Airlines account, involving local tactical advertising in Saudi Arabia and corporate advertising in international media. In a pitch involving five leading Saudi-based advertising agencies, the Middle Eastern Advertising and PR group responded to a detailed brief embracing general advertising, sales promotion, direct marketing and public relations.

Saudia is among the world's largest airlines, in terms of passenger boardings and fleet size, carrying some 10 million passengers yearly on its extensive fleet of modern, wide-bodied aircraft, including B747-300's, Airbus 300-600's and TriStar L1011's. Saudia presently flies to some 63 destinations worldwide.

Intermarkets was established over 30 years ago and has offices in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, London and Muscat. Its newly reorganised public relations division is the exclusive Burson — Marsteller affiliate in the Middle East.

Save water... every drop counts!



German director honoured — German Charge d'Affaires Matthias Meyer hosted a dinner in honor of Mr. Hinrich R. Reinstrom, former director of the Goethe-Institute in Amman. Mr. Reinstrom was serving in Jordan from 1987 to 1992. He was highly respected and appreciated in his capacity as the head of the German Cultural Institute. Under Mr. Reinstrom's guidance Goethe-Institute had numerous activities and displayed a wide variety of aspects of German culture. The dinner which was given in the Residence of Usam Qais, an archaeological site where close cooperation between Jordan and Germany has existed for a long time, was enriched by a performance of two German guitarists sponsored by Luftwaffe who are on a tour of the Kingdom.

| | | |
|--------|-------|-----|
| Red | Stop | 10% |
| Yellow | Ready | 20% |
| Green | Go | 30% |

What you find at
World Resources. Dajani Jewellers.
Amra Hotel.
How can you not afford it.
Go for it. Not for long!

BE A WINNER
& Travel with us
WE DO IT ALL!
Travel Tourism/Airlines reservations/
Hotel reservations/Package Tours to:
EGYPT (Cairo - Cairo & Alexandria)
GREECE (Athens & The Islands)
TURKEY (Istanbul)
For Further Information
RAINBOW TRAVEL & TOURISM CO
Tel. 621652, King Hussein Str.
Amman - Jordan, Fax No. 621652

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Weekly Political Pulse

More effort is needed to strengthen the sense of national identity

By Waleed Sadi

It seems that everywhere one looks nowadays there is some kind of another of civil strife. This phenomenon, if anything, has been on the rise ever since the new international order was ushered in with more countries than ever on the verge of breaking up because of ethnic, religious or national problems. Most affected by this new, alarming trend are the former Soviet Union republics, but the tidal wave of this phenomenon appears to reach Eastern Europe and beyond as well.

Most of the developing countries are also not exactly immune to this impending danger since most of them were artificially constituted in the first place. Even on our own turf, in the Arab World, there is so much pent-up pressures, brought about by the same ethnic or religious problems, that there is a continued danger that one kind of explosion or another may erupt without prior notice. Concerned countries in the Arab World may therefore engage in early diagnosis with a view to aborting or, better still, preempting any threat to their independence and territorial integrity. Iraq is by no means the only Arab country in danger of imminent ethnic eruptions and is not likely to be the last. The Lebanese syndrome may very well be repeated elsewhere in the Arab states, whether by design or due to dire neglect. Who ever thought, before civil war was ignited in Lebanon in 1975, that this peaceful Arab country, the "Switzerland of the Middle East," would be engulfed in a bloody, internecine warfare the likes of which contemporary history has not seen except, possibly, in Cambodia, where the Khmer Rouge

forces literally butchered millions of their own people before they were neutralised by the Vietnamese army.

In Jordan, there are no reasons to believe that our fate could be anything like that of the Lebanese or akin to the situation in some Egyptian communities where Muslims and Copts battle one another on and off and, in the process, threaten the stability of the entire country. The Hashemite family is the best guarantee of that. Still, there is no room for complacency even in peaceful Jordan which enjoys all the makings of a safe haven for all of its people. The chronic debate silently or publicly conducted about the percentage of "Palestinians" of the total Jordanian population, for example, is indeed an alarming signal and, unless checked and channelled into more constructive and enlightened avenues, may, God forbid, turn into a sore point that could disturb the tranquility of the Jordanian society. There is no denying that there is already sufficient pent-up steam of religious and ethnic nature that may explode unexpectedly if the government and people simply suffice themselves with sweeping these issues under the carpet. On the basis and strength of the National Charter, which, it seems, we only remember on occasions, there must be more earnest efforts to promote and forge a new sense of Jordanian identity and nationalism where all Jordanians, no matter what their origins or faiths, are viewed as equal citizens, enjoying the same opportunities and shouldering the same responsibilities.

It is utterly repugnant to contemporary norms of citizenship for

any national to keep brandishing his/her original nationality at a time when he/she sought and was granted the Jordanian nationality. By the same token, it is repugnant to modern international norms to have a multiple tier system of citizenship, with one that can be trusted in sensitive areas of public or private responsibility and the other that cannot, or one that is phased in - important areas of public or private domains and the other that is phased out. This would be a reckless way of dealing with admittedly an existing identity crisis within the Jordanian people that calls for a fresh review.

For starters, there must be a more determined effort to forge a new sense of Jordanianism based on total and unequivocal loyalty and belonging to the country. Alongside these efforts, there is a need for greater integration of all Jordanians in all public and private affairs, be they governmental, economic or industrial on equal footing. This calls for affirmative action by the government. These noble objectives cannot obviously grow on trees by themselves, but call for the application of a well-defined policy, carefully articulated by a Jordanian think tank group. Any such national policy would also call for greater religious and ethnic tolerance between Jordanians, not only rhetorically but also by in-depth practices. Any other issues or factors that may divide Jordanians would of course have to be included and brought within the purview of this proposed new national policy. It is never too early to conduct this analysis and the sooner the central government becomes seized with it the better.

Energy for all seasons

TODAY MARKS the beginning of the International Conference on Renewable Energy under the joint aegis of the University of Jordan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Coming as it does in the wake of the Earth Summit which concluded at Rio de Janeiro last week, the Amman meeting on renewable energy is a timely exercise that goes to the heart of the matter as far as protecting the world's environment and ecological system from seemingly imminent disaster. Most of the gas emissions that contribute to global warming are attributable to abuse of energy sources especially the kind that produces carbon dioxide for industrial and other purposes. In this connection it has been repeatedly mentioned that a more efficient use of oil and coal for example would decrease significantly the level of pollution and in turn would reduce the greenhouse effect.

But the exploitation of renewable energy such as solar and wind energies appears to offer the best hope for curtailing the continuous encroachment on the planet's environment. For this purpose, no less than sixty research papers will be considered at today's assembly of scientists in search of effective ways to commercialise solar and wind sources of energy. These submissions obviously need to be discussed also against the backdrop of the earlier conference on the same subject held in Amman last April under the aegis of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

The choice of Jordan for the continuation of an international debate on renewable sources of energy is clearly sensible in view of the fact that the Kingdom is blessed with sufficient solar and wind power that could help in the examination of the economic viability of these clean types of renewable energies. If there has been something important missing from these endeavours to develop alternative sources of energy, however, it is the absence of lawyers and economists without whom the entire exercise would fall short of our expectations. Lawyers are needed to submit legal concepts for the development and exploitation of solar and wind energies. Without such legislative frameworks, no amount of scientific research would be sufficient to translate the scientific and industrial findings into practice and practical use. Likewise, economists and industrialists are also needed to provide the necessary institutional framework for the application of scientific methods on energy. Hopefully shortcomings like these would be rectified at the next follow-up conference on the subject. Meanwhile Parliament may be invited to reflect on this issue with a view to enacting sometime soon the appropriate laws necessary to promote and encourage the use of renewable energies. Whether through tax incentives or duty-free importation of equipment there is a great deal that can be done by our legislators in the quest for the exploitation and commercialisation of solar and wind energies.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday commented on the plight of the Palestinian workers under Israeli rule in light of a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which exposed Israel's actions and the Ministry of Labour's address to the U.N. Organisation demanding interference to halt all mal-practices against the Palestinian workers. The minister has already briefed the world organisation on Israel's atrocities and Jordan is now hoping that pressure will be exerted on Israel to grant the Arab workers their human and legitimate rights and stop harassing their union leaders, said the daily. Unless the ILO takes steps to stop Israel's practices in the occupied Arab lands and unless the world organisation interferes to end these atrocities, the Jewish state is bound to pursue its present policies, the paper said. The paper said that the tip - service to the Arabs offered by the world organisation, and the mere condemnation in words of Israel's actions in the occupied Arab lands can never address the situation there and can not ease the injustices. What is urgently required at the moment, the paper demanded, is the imposition of sanctions and penalties on the Jewish state for its violation of the Geneva conventions and also protection of the rights of the civilian population in the Arab lands. The paper said that it was high time for the U.N. Organisation to act now and to put an end to Israel's crimes against the Arab workers and the rest of the civilian population.

AL DUSTOUR Sunday commented on the commencement of the extraordinary session at the Lower House of Parliament, noting that most of the topics on the agenda deserve urgent discussion and application. The daily said that the list of items, as approved by a Royal decree, includes the political parties and the press and publications laws which Jordanians have been awaiting and hoping to see implemented so that their democratic life would be enhanced. The Jordanian public had hoped that Parliament would at least consider the draft law on political parties in the past ordinary session so that its endorsement could come during the extraordinary session, the paper said. Democracy in Jordan would lack its basic and vital components if such laws failed to materialise and if no political parties were created in the Kingdom, the paper continued. It is only in a free and democratic climate that political parties can become active and only under true democracy can Jordanians exercise their full rights, the paper added. It said that with the start of the new session in Parliament, Jordanians are quite optimistic that the various components and elements of a free democratic life will finally see the light and that democracy, in the full meaning of the word, will prevail and dominate the Kingdom's various sectors.

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — First they were supposed to be rabid rightwingers backing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party. Then they were the disgruntled turning to the Labour opposition.

Now, as Israel's June 23 general election looms, it is largely guesswork who the 400,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union will support — even if they vote at all.

"No one knows if they are telling the truth in polls," said Hauch Smith, a pollster who treats even his own findings with caution. "It's the first time they're being asked in a free country what they think. They could surprise us."

Officially, up to about 250,000 of the immigrants could vote — enough to select about eight members of the 120-seat Knesset if they voted as a block.

That, say the pundits, will not happen. Confusion about election procedures could ensure far fewer even have the chance to vote. They must cast ballots near their registered addresses, which are often places they initially stayed at on their arrival in Israel but have not seen since.

Most estimates envisage 185,000 immigrant voters, although some pollsters say it could be far lower. Normally about 80 per cent of Israel's electorate, now 3.4 million, turns out to vote.

Latest polls say Labour has

four times more support than Likud among immigrants — 43.8 to 10.5 per cent.

Initially the immigrants were seen as natural supporters for Mr. Shamir's Likud, critical of Labour's socialist traditions. Labour's trappings like the red flag were thought enough to ensure votes for Mr. Shamir and his vehemently nationalist platform.

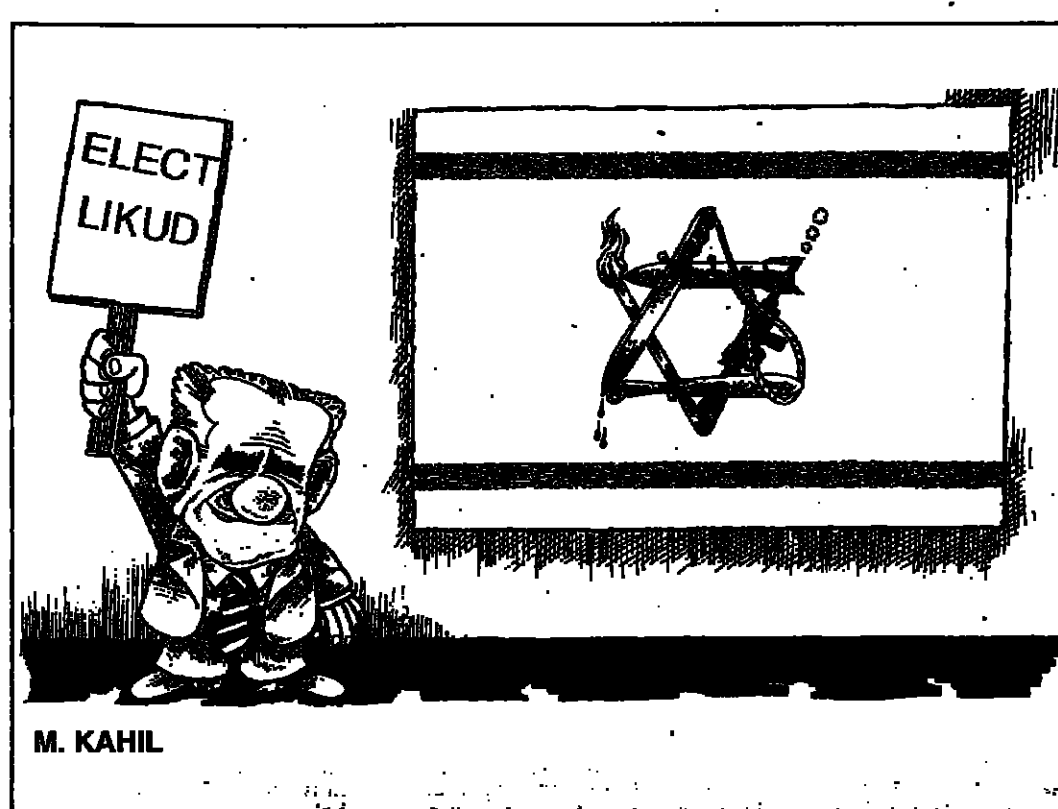
"They are still nationalists, they still would prefer to vote Likud," said Deborah Lipson of the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum.

"But it's a vote of disappointment. According to the polls about 40 per cent will vote left."

The reason is as obvious as the number of unemployed — about a third of immigrants. A queue of Russian-speakers waits in a Tel Aviv park each Friday to receive handouts of fruit and vegetables. "They are not coming here as Zionists to till the land — they are coming out of there rather than coming here," said Ms. Lipson, whose organisation lobbies for more immigrant aid. "They are coming to build a life for themselves."

Immigration dwindled as word of poor economic prospects reached those left behind. There was a steady drift from Likud by frustrated new arrivals who had expected a promised land.

Ruth Bar-On, executive director of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, said she realised early on that new immigrants chose Israel only when the United States closed its door. They were not the ideologically driven



Soviet Jews who came in the 1970s as committed Zionists.

"They are very pragmatic, very realistic," said Ms. Bar-On, who has helped both waves of immigrants. "Ideology has much less importance than practical solutions. Don't offer them something that will come true in

eternity or even in five years' time."

Labour and Likud have been promising good times ahead in television appeals and through advertising in the Russian-language press that has sprung up with immigration.

Mr. Shamir, who left Poland

nearly six decades ago, opened his television campaign with a few words of Russian. Since then both parties have printed Russian subtitles in nightly television attacks on their rivals.

"They give a lot of ads in our newspaper but they are just propagandistic statements, vague

promises. They (the immigrants) want concrete promises," said Edward Kuznetsov, editor of the Russian-language newspaper Vremya, in his Tel Aviv office. "I believe it is counter-productive."

Neither major party included a single immigrant on its list of candidates. That triggered a push to form parties aimed at the immigrant vote.

One is called Tali, another — Yad Be'ayad — is an unlikely coalition of immigrants and Israeli pensioners.

The best known is called DA — officially an acronym for Democracy and Aliya (immigration) but with the immediately understood meaning of "yes" in Russian.

However, immigrant parties are starved of campaign funds. Polls show only marginal support, possibly not enough to cross the threshold of 1.5 per cent of total votes needed to enter the Knesset.

With immigrant parties of secondary importance and almost no support for religious parties, speculation on the impact of the immigrant vote focuses on the numbers. That will depend on how many immigrants actually vote.

Mr. Kuznetsov, who arrived in Israel in 1979 during the previous wave of Soviet immigration, said: "The majority, if not all, are interested in short-term economic concerns. They will vote for whoever gives the best promises."

Irish vote apparently rescues European union plans

By Sally Jacobsen
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — Irish voters have apparently breathed new life into plans for a united Europe, but the union accord must still overcome tough opposition in other European nations before taking final shape.

Early returns Friday indicated support in all parts of Ireland for the so-called Maastricht Treaty, named for the Dutch town in which it was negotiated last December by European Community leaders.

The accord would set up a fledgling federal government, with a common foreign and security policy and a single currency by 1999. All 12 member nations must approve the deal before it goes into effect next year.

If borne out by final results, Ireland's approval of proposals for a political and economic union will ease fears of the pact's rejection among other nations of the European Community.

Denmark's narrow vote against the treaty earlier this month sent shock waves through the 12-nation trading bloc.

"The result of the Irish vote will be to put the treaty back on track," said Stanley Crossick, a veteran consultant in Brussels.

Even with the Irish backing, ratification by the other 10 nations is not certain.

Since the Danish vote, opposition to the pact has grown in France and Germany, whose leaders were instrumental in fashioning the union accord. Rejection in either of those nations would be a fatal blow.

On Friday, France's National Assembly, one of its two houses of parliament, approved constitu-

tional changes setting the stage for the accord to be put to voters in the fall.

The 388-43 vote in the assembly was seen as an overwhelming victory for the nation's embattled president, Francois Mitterrand.

EC officials and analysts worry voters may use the referendum to give an opinion not on the treaty, but rather on their unpopular president.

In Germany, 16 states have renewed threats to oppose the accord because of fears of handing over too much sovereignty to an EC federal government.

More than 60 prominent economists also have complained about provisions for forming a monetary union, with a common central bank and single currency.

Even if 11 of the 12 nations approve the agreement, the EC must still figure out a way of getting around the Danish rejection. The accord cannot go into effect until Denmark gives its approval.

EC officials and analysts tend to attribute the Danish loss to voter reluctance to give up national sovereignty to the community.

To try to overcome those doubts, Britain has floated the idea of a new statement spelling out limits on the EC's executive agency.

Others suggest the community must grant "opt-out" clauses for the Danes so they can remain outside parts of the union they find distasteful. Some voters were uneasy about linking their security and defence policies with those of their European neighbours.

Child labour — making ends meet, sacrificing early youth

Following is a 1992 report on child labour issued by the Geneva-based International Labour Office (ILO).

Six-year-old house-maids. Ten-year-old quarry workers. Twelve-year-old carpet weavers. Hundreds of millions of the world's children sacrifice their health, their education — and their childhood — in a daily struggle to survive.

According to the 1992 World Labour Report, the number of child labourers is increasing, not just in absolute terms but as a proportion of the world's children. Tens of millions of children are known to be working in Asia; African countries are reported to have up to 20 per cent of their children working, and up to 18 per cent of children between 11 and 14 years of age are economically active in parts of Latin America.

Child labour is not confined to developing countries. Italy and Spain are among European nations with the numbers of working children, and in the United States many thousands of children, particularly those from immigrant families, are at work each day on farms and plantations.

Almost all children do some work. This is part of the normal process of growing up. They might be running errands or (particularly in rural areas) just learning some of the skills they will need as adults. But child labour implies something different: that children are being exploited, working long hours under dangerous conditions, and missing vital years of education.

Poverty is the driving force behind child labour, says the report. When family survival is at stake, everyone — however young or vulnerable — has to lend a hand. A study for the ILO in leather tanneries in Cairo asked parents why their children (of average age 12) were working there. Over 90 per cent of parents said they had no choice: the family need the income. And

millions of children in South Asia have even less choice about working. These are bonded labourers, working as virtual slaves to pay off debts which their parents have acquired; they might be working with their families, or on their own, knowing neither the size of the debt they are paying off, nor when they will be released.

Many children will also be working because they cannot — or will not — go to school. Schooling may be unavailable, or too expensive, but it may also be so inadequate that parents do not consider it worthwhile. However, many working children go to school as well. They might spend the morning selling vegetables, perhaps, and the afternoon in the classroom. In Asunción, Paraguay, for example, 77 per cent of working street children are attending school. Indeed many of them will be working in order to go to school to pay for the books and the pencils and clothes they need.

The majority of working children are in agriculture: helping their parents on family plots or working alongside them on commercial farms. In cotton and tea plantations in Zimbabwe, for example, children from the age of seven are drawn in to help their parents increase the family earnings.

In urban areas, children are more likely to be working away from their parents, often as domestic servants in the houses of richer families; in Colombia, for example, one study showed that 40 per cent of 11 and 12-year-old child workers were domestic servants. But city children have a wide choice of other occupations, working in small factories, or on the streets selling lottery tickets, or washing windshields, or working as porters in markets. And while most children get pitifully small wages, those on the streets may actually earn more than their parents. In Recife in Brazil, for example, children can make up to three times the minimum wage by

selling fruit at busy intersections.

All child labourers sell some of their childhood, but few sacrifice as much as those driven to prostitution. This is a problem in both rich and poor countries, says the report. In developed countries it is often runaway children who sell their bodies. In poor countries child workers may start as street vendors but drift into prostitution since it can offer greater financial rewards — a problem in some Asian countries where child prostitution has been aggravated by the expansion of mass tourism.

"Child labour is not confined to developing countries. Italy and Spain are among European nations with the largest numbers of working children, and in the United States many thousands of children are at work each day on farms and plantations."

The costs of child labour can be high — particularly to the children's health. The soft bones of young children can be deformed by long hours of work and their eyesight damaged by sustained concentration. And if they are already malnourished, tired, working children are more vulnerable to infectious disease and prone to accidents when working with dangerous machinery.

Given the increasing scale of child labour, the World Labour Report looks at what can be done

about it. Many children at present have to work, so what they need is support and protection, and the report cites the case of Brazil where the government works with voluntary agencies to offer counselling and health services to working children.

But the long-term aim must be to eliminate child labour. For this, the first step is effective and enforced legislation. The basic minimum age for work in most countries is 14 years, though the limits may be lower for light work and higher for more hazardous occupations. However, the legislation in many countries excludes significant sectors such as agriculture and the informal sector, both of which are major users of child labour. And enforcement, too, can be a problem with far too few inspectors to monitor workplaces. As a positive example though, the report cites the case of Hong Kong, where a well-staffed inspectorate and rigorous enforcement have reduced child labour to minimal levels.

A second important weapon against child labour is education. Providing universal, and free, primary education gives children a real alternative to work, as well as the prospect of a better working life as adults. And a good start for working children may be non-formal vocational education which they can see as practical, and immediately useful.

But the most immediate priority, says the report, is to remove children from the most hazardous work-sites — from the glass factories, the stone quarries, the garbage dumps and the brothels and the many other places where they are in constant danger.

The report cites the increasing number of ratifications of the ILO's Minimum Age Convention. It says that the global community now has the opportunity to live up to such commitments and "allow poor families to give their children a happy childhood and prepare them for a healthy and productive working life."

Israel backs down on arrest threat

(Continued from page 1)

Reuters in a telephone interview in Amman.

"I would not conjecture but I do not think it would be easy to arrest the Palestinian delegation right now because this would make it very clear to the whole world that one side is under occupation and the other is occupied," she said.

A prominent Palestinian negotiator said the public link with the PLO would give the delegation breathing room in the West Bank and Gaza where he said Palestinians under occupation were losing patience with fruitless negotiations.

"We need credibility in our constituency... we want to show people change and all they see is confiscation of land, continuation of settlements, human rights violated, death squads, demolition of homes and settlers taking the law into their own hands, negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters.

Dr. Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, declined to say whether Washington had put any pressure on Israel to soften its stance.

Dr. Erekat said delegates had meetings scheduled until late on Wednesday and did not plan to return home before Israel goes to the polls on Tuesday.

The hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) welcomed the Amman meeting and called on Mr. Arafat to officially declare the Palestinian delegation a PLO team.

"We welcome the meeting as a step in the right direction," said Abdul Rahim Mallouh, who represents the PFLP on the PLO's

Executive Committee.

"But in order to make this step complete, it has to be officially announced by Arafat (and) the team's chief negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi and Mr. Hussein that the delegation is the PLO team and is directed by the organisation," he told Reuters.

The PFLP, which opposes the terms of the peace process, has repeatedly urged Palestinians to boycott the talks.

A leading PLO official has warned that the Israeli threat to arrest Palestinian delegates would doom the peace process, the daily Spanish El Pais reported Sunday.

Israel "would be condemning definitively the peace process opened in Madrid," PLO Political Department chief Farouk Kaddoumi told El Pais in the Cuban capital of Havana, where he is on an official visit.

Mr. Kaddoumi said the arrests would violate the crucial principle of the immunity of delegation members and called on the United States to intervene to save the process.

"It's only a pretext to put the brakes on the peace process," Mr. Kaddoumi told El Pais. "Contacts between the delegates and the PLO have been made before and nothing happened."

"However, Israel now wants to liquidate the talks and place the blame on the Arabs," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

"The PLO represents all Palestinians and when they (Palestinians) leave the occupied territories they have the right to meet with their representatives and whoever they like," Mr. Kaddoumi told El Pais.

Ex-generals favour land-for-peace deal

(Continued from page 1)

gence, and Brig-Gen. (ret.) Giora Forman, formerly deputy air force commander.

The council, which includes many other former generals, commissioned the poll in order to substantiate what it calls "a realization and conviction that alternative solutions to Israel's security requirements can be found without implementing sovereignty over the territories."

Seventy-six per cent of the respondents said a contractual peace with the Palestinians is achievable, while 69.5 per cent said the same with regard to Syria, and 98 per cent with Jordan.

On the specifics of which parts of the territories can be given back, 69.5 per cent said "the populated areas," with some adding "that additional territory could also be returned. Thirty per cent were unwilling to cede any territory."

Asked if the Arab demand for a Palestinian state in the territory is the only obstacle to peace, only 29 per cent agreed. Fifty-one per cent agreed to an independent Palestinian state, provided it came only after 10-year interim phase that proved the Palestinians' readiness to accept security arrangements; 58 per cent agreed to a Palestinian state if the West would assist in building an economic infrastructure for it during the interim phase.

Gen. Gazit and Gen. Forman emphasized that once the questions became more complex, the responses were even more moderate.

Asked "what political solution would you choose given Israel's constraints," 16 per cent said they would give back the territories in exchange for an agreement and security arrangements, and 58 per

cent would give back territories after the autonomy phase.

But 31 per cent said they would annex the territories. However, 71 per cent said it is more dangerous to maintain Israeli control in the territories without peace, while 29 per cent said it is dangerous to give them back to Jordan. If Jordan were replaced by the Palestinians, the answers were almost identical: 68 per cent said it is dangerous to maintain the territories without peace, and 32 per cent think it dangerous to give them up.

Should the PLO recognise Israel, renounce "terrorism," stop the intifada and relinquish its "right of return," 90 per cent were in favour of negotiating with it.

As for Gaza, not one respondent thought Israel should annex it, and 48 per cent believe that a solution there must be tied to a solution in the West Bank.

Seventy-five per cent thought the status quo on the Golan leads to a high probability of war; 85 per cent thought that annexation of the West Bank would make war highly likely; and 35 per cent thought a Palestinian state or autonomy would contain a high likelihood of war.

Israel's security is lessened by a nuclear arms race in the region according to 81 per cent of the generals, while 19 per cent said it makes no difference.

Finally, asked to recommend "security arrangements," 95 per cent listed demilitarisation of territories, arms limitations, and an Israeli military presence in key points. Others elaborated and added joint supervision, international guarantees, economic agreements, guarantees, economic agreements, and a solution to the refugee problem.

Palestinians debate strategy

(Continued from page 1)

interim period.

The Israelis have furthermore rejected proposals for Palestinian elections in October, one year after the American-led Mideast peace talks began in Madrid, something that Palestinians have expected from the Israelis at what one of them described as "this early stage of the negotiations."

This well-informed Palestinian, who wants his name withheld, says that the American letter of invitation to the peace negotiations "explicitly talks about a Palestinian interim self-government arrangement."

Since the bilateral talks began between the Palestinians and Israelis in Washington, the Israelis have been rejecting Palestinian proposals by providing counter-proposals that almost completely contradict the original ones.

Four working committees were formed including members from the delegation, the steering committee and PLO officials — are entrusted with preparing general strategies for the issue of land, water and (Jewish) settlements and Palestinian human rights, the protection of civilians and implementation of the Geneva conventions and confidence-building measures.

Mr. Khatib says that these committees were studying the best methods "to use the negotiations to stop the settlements and to establish their illegitimacy" and a Palestinian authority on the land and environment during the

interim period.

The Palestinians meetings were launched late last week with a general meeting chaired by the PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and which included negotiators and advisors. It was the first such meeting that was publicised with photographs since the Mideast peace talks started. This publicity has drawn Israeli threats to "arrest" members of the delegation upon their return to the occupied territories, but were later toned down by Israeli officials. (see separate story).

U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison met Friday with members of the Palestinian delegation and requested that such publicity must not be repeated, according to a Palestinian source. The source says that a high-level meeting between the Palestinians and Jordanians will take place today which will include foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and other Jordanian officials.

Czech plan

(Continued from page 1)

Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) swept the region in the elections two weeks ago on a platform of turning Czechoslovakia into a confederation of two sovereign republics with full international status.

"The political line of the HZDS is dangerous for the long-term interests of Slovakia," the KDH said.

8 deputies oppose political parties

(Continued from page 1)

wing as well as pan-Arab deputies did not comment.

The legalisation of political parties is expected to greatly reduce the strength of tribal representation in Jordan's political system once it institutionalises itself, local political analysts say. Tribal and regional ties, however, are expected to continue to play a role in Jordanian electoral politics, observers say.

The House has 60 items on its agenda for its two-month extraordinary session. The agenda also includes draft laws on press and publications, labour, economic crimes, civil status and social

security.

House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat announced that the House would hold three sessions every week — on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays.

During Sunday's session, the House observed a minute of silence in memory of Upper House member Khalil Salem, who passed away Friday, and Deputy Ahmad Al-Qutub Al-Azaidi, who passed away Saturday (see page 3).

A successor to Dr. Salem will be named by His Majesty King Hussein while bye-elections will be held in two months to elect Mr. Azaidi's successor.

Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

said Iraqi farmers appealed in letters to the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and ambassadors of China and Russia for an end to the bombing.

"The farmers urged the world society and humanitarian organisations to stop these aggressive acts... which ruin our crops and threaten the peaceful people with famine," INA said.

It said a big crowd of farmers also rallied outside the offices of the United Nations Development Programme in Baghdad.

Iraq said in a letter to the U.N. that the U.S. planes dropped incendiary bombs on wheat and barley fields and appealed to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to help "stop this savage crime."

The letter from Iraq's U.N. Representative Abdul Amir Al-Anbani said these "cowardly attacks" were a flagrant violation of the Gulf war ceasefire and

revealed the falseness of U.S. assertions that the aircraft in question were carrying out observation missions in implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Iraq said wheat and barley fields were set on fire by U.S. planes in villages surrounding the northern city of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Mosul is above the 36th Parallel, the northern limit for Iraqi flights set by an allied force protecting Kurds in northern Iraq.

U.S. and allied planes based in southeast Turkey make daily flights over Mosul and the Kurdish provinces of Dohuk and Erbil.

Iraq's National Assembly on Sunday approved a resolution condemning "a deliberate attempt to deprive the Iraqi people of their food." It said the crop destruction has affected 22 northern villages.

For the first time, the statement accused British aircraft of being involved in the flare-dropping, along with the U.S. air force.

PLO put in peace process picture

(Continued from page 1)

"I think it's too embarrassing for them to arrest a delegation that they have been negotiating with," said Mr. Khatib, a university lecturer who has been jailed five times.

Officials said the Arafat meeting was also aimed at showing that the Palestinian delegation was not an alternative to the Tunis-based PLO and at emphasising the organisation would play a role in local elections planned for the occupied territories.

"If there will be elections... the PLO is the organisation which is like the tent over the whole Palestinian people," said Faisal Al-Husseini, believed to be the leading PLO figure in the West Bank.

"The Palestinian people are one people not two peoples and... have one leadership," said the PLO's Nabih Sha'ath.

The PLO, with its foot in the door through the attendance of Arafat advisers such as Mr.

Sha'ath at past rounds of talks, has been trying since the talks began last October to play a more visible role in the peace process.

Palestinian negotiators said they had made their point that they were directly linked to the PLO and no further immediate steps were planned to highlight the organisation's role.

"The principle is there, it has been advanced and we are busy now doing our work for the peace process," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the peace talks team.

Israel's opposition Labour Party, which unlike the ruling Likud favours swapping some occupied land for peace, has promised to talk to anyone representing the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli Labour Party campaign strategist Binjamin Ben Eliezer said of the meeting: "This is the truth slapping Likud in the face. Likud said it would never meet the PLO. All along it has been speaking with the PLO."



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Lewis fails to qualify for Olympic 100 metres

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Two-time Olympic 100 metres champion Carl Lewis couldn't find his patented acceleration when he needed it most and failed to qualify for the event on a stunning Saturday at the U.S. Olympic trials.

The world record-holder placed a surprising sixth in the 100-metre final at the U.S. selection meet for the Barcelona games — his worst finish in 11 years.

"To run that kind of race as fast as I did, you can't expect to make the Olympic team," Lewis said after clocking 10.28 seconds into a slight head wind.

"I thought I started well, but I just didn't feel that good all weekend, so that's the way it is."

"I've been in a lot of big races, and this is a little disappointment, but it's not the end of the world."

It does, however, wipe out the possibility of a Lewis-Ben Johnson rematch at Barcelona.

In an ironic twist of fate, Johnson clocked 10.16 seconds for second place at the Canadian Olympic trials Saturday to qualify for the event.

It was Johnson's fastest time since failing a doping test at the 1988 Olympics where the defeated Lewis only to have his gold medal stripped and awarded to his American arch rival.

Lewis, a six-time Olympic gold medalist, still hopes to make the U.S. team in the long jump and 200 metres later in the 10-day trials. He also could make the U.S. 4x100-metre relay team since U.S. coaches have said they will consider the top six finishers in the 100 metres at the trials for the relay squad.

Lewis, however, said he would not bump the five men who finished ahead of him in an attempt to make the relay team.

World bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell turned a strong start into victory in the surprising race.

Mitchell clocked 10.09 seconds to edge Mark Witherspoon, who was awarded the same time.

Leroy Burrell, the former World record holder, claimed third in 10.10 seconds to qualify for the event in Barcelona and Mike Marsh was fourth in 10.14 seconds.

World silver medalist Gwen Torrence overcame knee problems to win the women's 100-metre final in 10.97 seconds. Gail Devers was close behind in 11.02 seconds and 35-year-old Evelyn Ashford clocked 11.17 seconds to make her fourth Olympic team.

"I was very, very sore, but I said, 'no pain, no gain,'" said Torrence, who will be one of the 100-metre favourites at Barcelona.

Double Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey led after the first day of the heptathlon by more than 200 points, but her four-event total of 4,071 points was far off her world-record pace.

Shelia Hudson improved on her U.S. record in the women's triple jump, bounding 14.23 metres (46-feet, 8-1/4 inches) in the event which is not yet on the Olympic programme.

Kevin Young ran the second fastest 400-metre hurdles time of the year, 48.18 seconds, in qualifying and U.S. record-holder Sandra Farmer-Patrick was impressive in the women's 400-metre hurdles, clocking 54.94 seconds for the third fastest time in the world this year.

The trials continue through June 28, with the top three finishers in each event qualifying for the U.S. Olympic team.

Meanwhile Ben Johnson is thrilled to be bound for the 100 metres competition at the Barcelona Olympics and happier still that he won't have to face his old nemesis Carl Lewis.

Johnson Saturday earned a chance to win the Olympic 100 metres gold medal that was stripped from him four years ago for steroid use when he qualified in the event at the Canadian Olympic trials.

The 30-year-old Johnson, who has been struggling to approach competitive form, beat the qualifying standard of 10.28 seconds by finishing second in the 100 metres final with a time of 10.16 seconds. National champion Bruny Surin won the final 10.13 seconds.

"It's really no surprise to me because everyone's running fast in America," Johnson said of Lewis's failure to qualify for the 100 metres event he had won in 1984 and 1988.

Johnson could not hide his pleasure at the day's events and grinned when asked if he would miss the bitter rivalry.

"I don't want to see Carl Lewis anymore," he said.

Ironically Dennis Mitchell, who won the 100 metres final in New Orleans, played a big part in Johnson's comeback following his two-year suspension for drug use.

"I went to Gainesville, Florida, in March and worked hard with Dennis Mitchell," Johnson said.

"Last year when I came back, I had no base work. I had lost my muscle tone and everything," said Johnson, whose times had been mediocre at best in his comeback efforts.

Johnson ran a slow 10.43 only 10 days ago in Portugal and Saturday's final was his last chance to make the Canadian Olympic team for 100 metres.

But after his success, Johnson said he was well aware there would be renewed suspicion of performance-enhancing drug use by disgraced former world record holder.

"When Ben's running 10.42, everyone says nothing. When I run a fast time, everyone says 'what's going on?'" he acknowledged.

Russia beats Bosnia in Chess Olympiad

MANILA (AP) — Top-seeded Russia Sunday drubbed Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-1 in the 12th round to near its quest for the men's championship with two rounds left in the 30th Chess Olympiad.

With the win, Russia now has 35 points, four and a half points ahead of second place Uzbekistan.

Russia can wrap up the championship as early as the next round Monday. If the Russians can maintain their 4.5-point lead after Monday's competition, they could lose all four matches in Wednesday's 14th round play and still win by a half point.

World champion Garry Kasparov led the Russian attack in board one by defeating Predrag Nikolic in 37 moves of a queens gambit declined opening.

Russians Alexander Khalifman and Sergei Dolmatov drew their games in the next two boards while 17-year-old chess prodigy Vladimir Kramnik added another point for the Russians by beating Emir Dizdarevic in 41 moves of a reti opening.

Also Sunday, the International Chess Federation formally recognised Kramnik as a grandmaster, the games' top grade. He was one of 113 given the honours during the Olympiad for accomplishments during previous tournaments.

In sole second place was Uzbekistan which beat Armenia 2.5-1.5 points. The first three board games ended in draws but Uzbekistan's Sergei Zagrebelsky beat Artashes Minasian on board four.

Armenia's defeat dropped it to third place with 29.5 points, together with Georgia.

The United States was in fourth with 29 points but has one adjourned game against Latvia. Latvia has 28.5 points to tie Germany, India and Lithuania in fifth.

In the women's division, China maintained a half point lead against Ukraine despite a lost to Azerbaijan 2-1 in round 12.

World women's champion Xie Jun of China beat Almuz Sofieva in 63 moves of a Ruy Lopez opening. Teammate Peng Zhaoqin lost to Zvezda Velichani in 38 moves of a French defence, China's women's board three player Wang Pin was beaten by Iliya Kadimova in 35 moves of another Ruy Lopez.

In second place was Ukraine with 25 points and an adjourned game against Russia.

Georgia was in third with 24.5 points and an adjourned game against Kyrgyzstan. Azerbaijan followed 23 points.

The United States drew all its games against Hungary to take fifth with 22.5 points. Russia followed with 22 points.

A win earns a point and a draw gets half a point.

The biannual Olympiad is a contest to find the best men's and women's teams.

Stich is confident of another Wimbledon win

LONDON (R) — The tortured Boris Becker, the flamboyant Andre Agassi and the fiery John McEnroe may steal all the attention at Wimbledon over the next two weeks but defending champion Michael Stich won't mind one bit.

Though last year's Wimbledon win set him up for life financially, the tall German has always struggled to come to terms with the media attention that went hand-in-hand with the victory.

As an intensely private person, Stich even threatened to give up the sport he loves unless the German press stopped printing stories about his girlfriend and his private life recently.

But when it comes to tennis, Stich is happy to talk and happy to see himself as one of the favourites for this year's championships.

"I feel I can win it again," said Stich, who would become the first repeat champion since his compatriot and Olympic doubles partner Becker in 1986 if his feeling is right.

"I intend to do everything more or less the same as I did last time. When you've established a pattern that works it would be foolish to change."

Last time involved knocking out French Open winner Jim Courier, this year's top seed, in the quarter-finals, defending champion Stefan Edberg in three tiebreak sets in the last four and Becker in straight sets in the first all-German men's singles final at the All England Club.

Not bad for a man who had entered the Grand Slam event at betting odds of only 66-1.

This year, the 23-year-old Stich is seeded third, and, according to the bookmakers, is joint second favourite with Courier at 11-2, behind Sweden's Edberg at 9-4.

Though the pressure may weigh on him, Stich believes the odds are good this time after his victory on grass in the Dutch tournament at Rosmalen a week ago.

"Last year I made it to the semis there and this year I won it," Stich said.

Superb serving contributed heavily to Stich's triumph last year. He produced more than 90 aces during the two weeks of Wimbledon and his serve was measured at 190 kph.

Stich jumped from 38th in the world rankings to third after the win and last year played 149



Michael Stich

singles and doubles matches on the tour — more than any other player.

Last year's Wimbledon win took him past \$1 million in career earnings and he has earned several million more since from sponsors.

"It is quite remarkable how it transforms your life," said Stich, who has admitted to getting bored with the constant travelling involved on the professional tour.

At home in Germany and abroad, it is Becker who still attracts more media attention and more adulation from the fans.

Becker, ever prone to self-analysis and doubt, has found the spotlight hard to cope with and his worries this time are compounded by a recent hamstring injury, his split with coach Tomas Smid and his opening-match loss at Queen's nearly two weeks ago.

Stich, level-headed on and off court, has picked up a few tips from his compatriot on how to deal with stardom and has already started to plan for life after tennis by setting up his own sports marketing company.

He will be quite happy if the attention stays on Becker this year or if the crowd are more interested in Agassi's latest outfit or McEnroe's latest swear-word than in how Michael Stich is doing.

Stich, drawn to meet Edberg again in the semifinals, just wants to be left in relative peace to get on with the job at hand.

As defending champion, he opens the centre court programme Monday against Italian Stefano Pescosolido, a reasonable easy prospect, and Stich is looking forward to switching from centre to action.

"Just walking out on centre court will be special," he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 22, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Concentrate more upon the artistic and less on the conventional otherwise quick action of an adverse nature could follow an extravagant judgement. Follow your intuitions with art and music.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can bring from your inner consciousness those thoughts by which you can make the future more as you wish it to be, especially in practical outlets.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A condition between you and an associate now comes to light so that you will have a better chance to understand and change even though it will not be quick and easy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) It is essential that you delve into whatever tasks face you so that you read between the lines just what fellow workers expect of you and please them as best you can.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some special project you have been working on for some time and study and effort before it will be perfected as you wish.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A condition exists beneath your own roof which you do not understand but which you would be wise to subtly draw out from a reticent family member.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day when you would be wise to delve into whatever sources of information are available to gain knowledge you need in routine activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you have that day when whatever has to do with financial or other practical matters need to be studied at length before committing yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now are able to make a very well rounded campaign of action to gain the personal longings that most powerfully appeal to you today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well what your intimate aims are now and the effort required to make them an actual part of your everyday existence and you use the day well.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It is necessary that you use more steadfastness in order to gain the various personal wishes that most animate you so use this method to gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can start the day right by making a detailed course of action for this weeks activities of a personal or a public, worthy nature.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new project you are interested in has come to light but if it is to mean anything constructive to you, you need to examine it from all angles.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



"This next therapy is a little thing I call 'The 48-Hour Mummy'..."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles: one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAIGY

PRYAT

FRAGEO

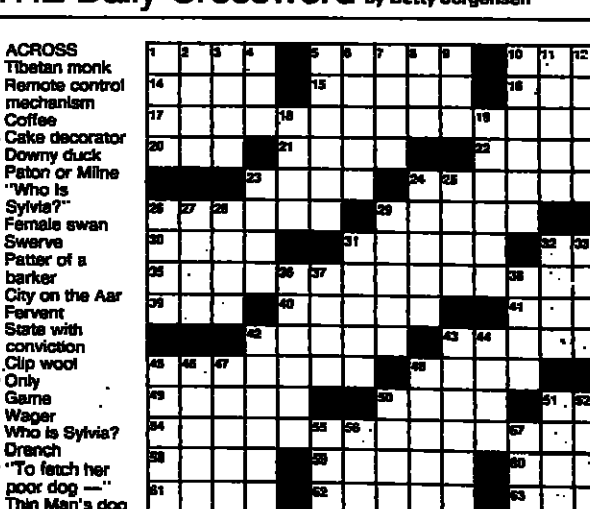
HOCGRB

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DANDY MILKY GAMBIT URCHIN
Answer: He thought he was in the groove, but he was really this — IN A RUT

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Tibetan monk
5 Heraclea control mechanism
10 Coffee
14 Cake decorator
15 Downy duck
16 Patron or Milne
17 Who is Sylvia?
20 Female swan
21 Swerve
22 Patter of a berber
23 City on the Air
24 Pervert
25 State with conviction
26 Clip wool
30 Only
31 Gernie
32 Wager
33 Who is Sylvia?
34 Oranch
40 "To fetch her poor dog"
41 Tim Man's dog
42 Gric
43 Mad
44 Wonderland character
45 Breath
46 Prepare pets
48 Warn
50 Complete set of type
51 Precursor
54 Who is Sylvia?
58 Shop sign
59 Bell
60 Cemetery or Penn
61 Dispatched
62 Innsbruck's province
63 Biora
DOWN
1 Speak a certain way
2 Throb painfully
3 Intend
4 Curmudgeon
5 And area
6 Come to fruition
7 River to the Baltic
8 Tchrs. org.
9 Slip
10 Variety of quartz
11 Blitter compound
12 Weathercock
13 Viewpoint
14 Always
15 Assets
23 Vegetable
24 "You're satisfied"
25 Pater the pianist
26 Nile vipers
27 Arle
28 Invitation to a duel
29 Exhausted
31 Seaside
32 Better than
33 Noble family
34 Ruler
36 Certain African
37 Ski lift
38 Males' lace
42 Burst of speed
43 Grete's brother
44 Against
45 Kind of gin fizz
46 Run away to
47 Lucky number? or 48 Trunk
49 50-50
51 Draft designation
52 Unleashing
53 Unit of forces
54 Made a lap
55 Attempt
57 Award letters

Reynolds ends fight to overturn ban

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Butch Reynolds' 21-month-old fight to run in the Olympics is over.

A federal appeals court Friday forbade the world record holder in the 400 metres to run in the Olympic trials, and Mimi Dane, one of his lawyers, said there will be no appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) suspended Reynolds 21 months ago after a meet in Monte Carlo, accusing him of using steroids.

From the beginning, Reynolds has said he is innocent.

Judge Eugene E. Siler Jr. of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati said Friday that Reynolds could not run because he is a three-paying member of the IAAF, which would be harmed by being excluded from the trials, because the IAAF had already said he would not be allowed to compete in the Olympics in Barcelona.

But letting Reynolds run could harm other athletes by eliminating them from the team, Judge Siler said.

"Moreover, although the court does not condone the threat by the IAAF to disqualify anyone who might compete against (Reynolds) in preliminary competition, nevertheless, that is a possible adverse effect upon other competitors," Judge Siler said.

Frank Greenberg, president of the Athletics Congress (TAC), said there was no feeling of victory in the 6th Circuit's ruling, even though TAC was among those appealing. TAC is the governing body for Track and Field in the United States.

"We are very pleased because the judge has recognised the position of the IAAF was correct," said IAAF President Primo Nebiolo.

Had Reynolds been cleared by the courts to run, officials planned to hold an invitational meet in Mexico City or Narbonne, France, after the New Orleans competition to serve as the 400-metre trials, track sources said. Reynolds would not have been invited.

Judge Siler said the IAAF and TAC are authorised to determine eligibility for Track and Field athletes. "The court should be very cautious in intervening in matters of this nature," he said.

Judge Siler acknowledged that he is a three-paying member of TAC and offered a step aside from ruling on the issue, even though he said he did not feel it would affect his decision.

The IAAF said Friday it would consider extending Reynolds' suspension beyond Aug. 12 for competing while ineligible. However, that appears to hinge on whether Reynolds continues to press through the courts for reinstatement.

Reynolds will still have a hearing on the merits of his suit against TAC and the IAAF, although it will be too late to permit him to compete in the trials.

Reynolds also has a \$12.5 million damage suit pending against TAC and the IAAF.

The 6th Circuit over-ruled U.S. District Judge Joseph Kinneary of Columbus, Ohio, who earlier Friday had said there was clear and convincing proof that Reynolds was innocent and ordered that he be permitted to run.

TAC immediately appealed to the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati, and the U.S. Olympic Committee wrote a letter to the 6th Circuit supporting TAC.

Reynolds blamed his suspension on politics and greed. He has insisted all along that the urine samples got mixed up and argued that politics prevented the IAAF from just admitting that a mistake had been made.

At its December meeting in New Orleans, TAC said it believed Reynolds and found indications that urine samples had been confused. TAC urged the IAAF to reinstate him.

But when the IAAF refused, TAC sided with the international governing body.

"Our statutory duty is to protect the athletes," Greenberg said. "We felt we did everything we could for Butch."

"I doubt that any court in the United States could have put Butch on the line. We did as much as we could."

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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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♥ 6 4 3
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ 8 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 9 7 6
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ Q J 10

EAST
♠ 4 2
♥ K 10 7
♦ J 10 8
♣ A K 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 5 3
♥ A Q J
♦ A 6 3
♣ 5

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Major league baseball came to a surprising conclusion during the off-season. The Historical Committee decided that most no-hitters were lost in the late innings. We beg to differ — most go by the boards in the first few innings. Similarly, far too many bridge contracts are lost in the very early play.

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Financial
Markets

Jordan Times
In cooperation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary June 15-June 19, 1992

AMMAN — The dollar fluctuated widely during the course of the past week as traders awaited the results of voting on the Maastricht Treaty in Ireland later in the week. The U.S. unit ended the week marginally lower against European currencies and slightly higher against the yen.

The dollar declined Monday, as demand for Deutschmarks continued to dominate trading activity as a result of the Danish vote against the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty. Trading activity appeared subdued, as dealers awaited the release for U.S. economic data the next day.

The dollar ended at its lowest levels of the week Tuesday at 1.5638 marks, 126.45 yen and at \$1.8648 to the pound. The decline materialised despite the release of a batch of positive U.S. economic statistics.

Wednesday witnessed a substantial dollar rally, however. As the U.S. unit rose to its highest closing levels of the week, at 1.5745 marks, 127.27 yen and at \$1.8668 to the pound, observers attributed its rise to expectations of positive voting results in Ireland on the Maastricht Treaty the next day.

The dollar declined Thursday, only to rise to Wednesday's levels Friday. The Thursday decline was caused by the release of U.S. trade data showing a rise in the U.S. trade deficit to \$6.97 billion in April, from \$5.8 billion the previous month.

Friday's dollar rise, on the other hand, was attributed to the Irish vote in favour of the Maastricht Treaty by a two-thirds majority. Dealers liquidated long mark positions, and the dollar appreciated as a result.

As for this week, many observers believe the dollar will breach resistance at 1.5750 marks, which dealers failed to do last week. Rumors of a U.S.-Japan pact to achieve a Wyeen rate below 125 continue to circulate however.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

| Currency | 12/6/92 | 19/6/92 | Percent Change |
|----------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.8515 | 1.8585 | 0.38% |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.5770 | 1.5743 | 0.17% |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4270 | 1.4200 | 0.49% |
| French Franc | 5.3095 | 5.2985 | 0.21% |
| Japanese Yen | 126.70 | 127.03 | (0.26%) |

USD Per NTG

| Currency | 15/6/92 | 19/6/92 | 15/6/92 | 19/6/92 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 3.93 | 4.43 | 3.81 | 4.43 |
| Sterling Pound | 9.96 | 9.81 | 9.93 | 9.68 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.62 | 9.56 | 9.59 | 9.50 |
| Swiss Franc | 9.31 | 8.78 | 9.12 | 8.62 |
| French Franc | 9.96 | 9.87 | 10.00 | 9.87 |
| Japanese Yen | 4.73 | 4.43 | 4.62 | 4.34 |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 N. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/6/92

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | .675 | .677 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.2532 | 1.2595 |
| Deutsche Mark | .4285 | .4306 |
| Swiss Franc | .4752 | .4776 |
| French Franc | .1272 | .1278 |
| Japanese Yen | .5310 | .5337 |
| Dutch Guilder | .3802 | .3821 |
| Swedish Krona | .1186 | .1192 |
| Italian Lira | .566 | .569 |
| Belgian Franc | .02082 | .02092 |

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India's economy dominates Rao's first year

NEW DELHI (R) — Shifting India's focus from parochial squabbles to economic issues has occupied most of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's one year in office, but his opponents say the goal appears elusive and the task perilous.

Mr. Rao, 71, who completed his first year in office Sunday, has by and large ignored his critics, preferring instead to pursue the mission of transforming India's moribund socialist economy into a vigorous free market system.

The mission has drawn a mixed response. And, in a hostile parliament where Mr. Rao's Congress Party is a dozen seats short of a clear majority, a head-on collision with the opposition has already resulted in half a dozen close calls.

But the threat of being voted out has not deterred Mr. Rao. "I do not really attach any great importance to this number or whatever I am short of," he told deputies in the Lok Sabha, (lower house).

Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, a professional economist hand-picked by Mr. Rao, began the thrust towards economic reform with a flurry of fiscal measures — deflating the economy and cutting the fiscal deficit from

eight per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 6.5 per cent. With Mr. Rao's unflinching support, he attacked India's most celebrated holy cow — the country's flabby system of subsidies, paring them down substantially despite warnings from opponents and allies of the policy's unpopularity.

In further moves he deregulated trade and opened up most of India's industries to foreign investments — steps which earned him praise from the private sector but condemnation from the opposition.

Mr. Singh acknowledged that some of the measures were harsh but said he was happy that at least people were thinking more about the economy.

"We succeeded in focusing the country's attention on basic problems of economic management," he told Reuters.

"We have veered away from the divisive issues of mosques and temples... I think that itself is an achievement," Mr. Singh said, referring to religious violence between Hindus and Muslims and an ethnic conflict between different Hindu castes that plagued the country before Mr. Rao's appointment.

But Mr. Singh's policies have not impressed the country's restive working classes.



Narasimha Rao

Organised labour, confined largely to the nationalised sector, and leftist trade unions have scoffed at Mr. Singh's reform push. In a show of strength last Tuesday they held a countrywide strike to protest against Mr. Rao's liberalisation plans, chiefly against a proposal to allow sick industries to lay off workers.

The leftist parties say free enterprise cannot funnel wealth

down to the 40 per cent or more of India's 850 million people who live below the poverty line.

"Narasimha Rao's one year has been marked by the worst attacks on people's livelihood, dictated by IMF (International Monetary Fund)," said Prakash Karat, politburo member of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM).

"We see an authoritarian streak in Rao's administration. In the name of consensus, he has pushed unpopular reforms through the parliament," Mr. Karat said.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main opposition in parliament, said some of Mr. Rao's economic measures were anti-national.

"Narasimha Rao's move to give a greater role to foreign banks is like giving them permission to loot the country," said K.R. Malkani, the BJP spokesman.

But Mr. Rao appears determined not to let opposition attacks deter him from pressing forward with his reforms into a second year.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's central bank, has permitted closure of a cooperative bank after its assets were found severely eroded by the country's worst

financial scandal.

An RBI press release said that an investigation into the affairs of the Metropolitan Cooperative Bank (MCB) revealed the erosion in its assets "will not only wipe out its entire owned funds but will affect deposits to a substantial extent."

"After due consideration and consultation with the concerned authorities, the RBI has accorded its sanction to winding up the bank," it said.

Fraudulent or uncovered banker's receipts or BRs — promissory notes issued by a bank to pledge delivery of government securities — have been at the heart of the 30 billion rupee (\$1 billion) scandal.

The central bank said MCB issued uncovered BRs in total proportion to its assets in its securities transactions. MCB had issued BRs worth 1.3 billion rupees (\$50 million) against a total working capital of just 80 million (\$3 million), it said.

Earlier this month, the RBI had ordered liquidation of privately owned Bank of Karad for similar reasons.

In another case, India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has opposed bail for the stock broker at the centre of the financial scandal, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

CBI Counsel P.R. Joshi told a bail hearing in a special court that further evidence of bogus securities dealings by broker Harshad Mehta had surfaced and he should be detained for further questioning, the news agency said.

An earlier order remanding Mr. Mehta in custody along with 10 others charged in connection with the scandal ran out Friday.

Mr. Joshi said bank officials accused with Mr. Mehta intentionally connived in illegal transactions with the broker — once known as the "big bull" of the Bombay Stock Exchange, India's biggest.

The CBI also required further time to decode tapes and computer disks seized from Mr. Mehta and his companies, he said.

Mr. Joshi asked for all the accused to be remanded in custody until July 3, PTI said. They have been charged with cheating, criminal conspiracy, forgery and fraud.

The 30-billion rupee (\$1 billion) scandal involved alleged collusion of brokers and bank officials in illegally diverting funds from the government securities market to the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The central bank says about 17 Indian and at least four foreign banks are involved in the scandal.

Zaire announces price controls

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's government, worried by recent astronomical rises in the cost of basic foodstuffs, has announced that it will introduce price controls.

Blaming the rises on "power-hungry individuals rejecting the real efforts being made by the government," spokesman Kitege Yenzi said the government would introduce price controls throughout Zaire.

Offenders would be prosecuted, he told journalists after the weekly cabinet meeting. But he did not say how the government intended to stop the price rises, which mirror the downward slide of the national currency, the zaire.

A bag of sugar, sold last week for 600,000 zaires, now costs 1.5 million, equivalent to the month-

ly salary of a low-level government employee, while a sack of cassava has gone from three to six million zaires.

Locals say prices are going up within the space of a day and have doubled or tripled since the start of the week.

The zaire, which virtually collapsed following army-led riots last September which crippled the

economy, now trades on the black market at 500,000 to the U.S. dollar as opposed to 150,000 to the dollar in May.

Zaire's hardline President Mobutu Sese Seko, who has ruled the country for 27 years, is currently locked into a battle for survival with a national pro-democracy conference which wants him to surrender his decision-making powers.

Deep nuclear reductions may evoke serious economic problems for Russia

MOSCOW (R) — Deep cuts in Moscow's nuclear arsenal agreed at the Washington summit threaten to overwhelm Russia's fragile economy with a huge bill for dismantling the deadly weapons, Russian and Western analysts have said.

But they voiced concern that Russian society, reeling as it sheds seven decades of state planning, could be overwhelmed by the costs of shutting down the arms race.

And some suggested elements of the once all-powerful military would be far from pleased at losing the one type of weapon — long-range, land-based systems — where they had enjoyed an advantage over the U.S.

"I think that this agreement objectively strengthens Russia's national security," said military analyst Alexander Kononov, of the USA-Canada Institute.

"However, the accord requires tremendous expenditures and this can evoke serious economic problems for Russia," Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Bush agreed to cut the number of strategic nuclear warheads from more than 10,000 to 3,000-3,500 each by the year 2003.

The cuts go well beyond the existing START treaty and would mean the elimination of all multiple-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles — the heart of Russia's arsenal.

"I cannot say the government has made any economic assessment of the cuts," said Alexander Golts, columnist for the armed forces daily Krasnaya Zvezda.

"We could have scratched together the money to fulfil the START provisions, but I don't believe we can afford deeper cuts economically," Mr. Golts told Reuters.

The economy is on the verge of breakdown, as production plummets and inflation, the budget deficit and unemployment soar. Thousands of anxious army officers face demobilisation or transfer from abroad to the uncertain-

ty of life in Russia.

Analysts say there is no way Russia can cope with the high costs — U.S. estimates are in the billions of dollars — of dismantling and storing the nuclear charges.

Western aid, including Washington's offer of \$400 million, will not go far enough, they said.

The new agreement requires Moscow to shed all of its 308 SS-18 missiles, including 154 not covered by START. Each missile carries 10 independent warheads.

Russia's military establishment, which has already seen its prestige and standard of living eroded with the collapse of the Soviet Union, had vigorously resisted such a move.

A vocal conservative coalition of Russian nationalists and ex-communists, many with ties to the former Soviet military command, has already taken aim at the START treaty, which is up for ratification before the Russian parliament.

The new, deeper cuts can only exacerbate their anger, said a Western military attaché.

Krasnaya Zvezda offered another indication of the depth of concern over the economy's ability to absorb the costs of meeting the less-ambitious start reductions.

In an interview before the new accord was announced in Washington, Alexander Piskunov, deputy head of the Russian parliament's committee on defence, told the newspaper:

"At present we would still be able to carry out the START treaty. We will have enough resources for that. But neither our economy nor our social policy will be able to carry the burden of further cuts, further changes in the structure of strategic nuclear forces."

Iran exports buses to China

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's biggest car-maker Iran Khodro has shipped a consignment of 120 buses and minibuses worth \$5 million to China, Tehran Radio reported.

It was the company's fourth export shipment in the Iranian year started March 21. Previous ones went to Russia and the United Arab Emirates, the radio said.

Iran's car industry is heavily dependent on the import of engines and other parts and almost all its output is sold on the domestic market.

Iran Khodro, one of 14 major state-owned factories listed to be privatised this year, assembles Mercedes Benz buses and Peugeot and Hillman Hunter cars.

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U.N. ceasefire clock running in Sarajevo

BELGRADE (R) — The clock was running in besieged Sarajevo Sunday on a demand by U.N. peacekeepers for a 48-hour ceasefire so that the airport could reopen for an emergency-airlift to civilians.

General Lewis MacKenzie, chief negotiator of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said he was "knocking on wood and crossing my fingers" that the call would be respected by Serbian forces and Muslim-Croat paramilitary groups.

Sarajevo Radio said shelling, street fighting and machinegun fire continued unabated in the early hours, after Gen. MacKenzie said he would recommend that the airport operation proceed only if the guns stayed silent for two days.

The tortured capital began June 21 — the longest day of the year — cloaked in eerie blackness, its people once again spending the night in cellars.

The only flashes of light came from explosions, the arc of tracer fire and the headlights of speeding militia cars reflected off darkened buildings.

"There's no ceasefire, just continuous heavy firing," Sarajevo Radio journalist Miroslav Simovic told Reuters by telephone shortly after dawn.

But later Sunday morning, Gen. MacKenzie said that from UNPROFOR's vantage point in one of the tallest buildings in the Bosnian capital the situation looked "encouraging."

There was still gunfire but "it's Sarajevo-quiet," he told Reuters by telephone. The shooting still going on could be put down to what he termed "criminal elements."

Sarajevo has been under siege for two and a half months, with mostly Muslim and Croat fighters, but also Bosnian Serbs, fighting back Serbs who reject Bosnia-Herzegovina's secession from Yugoslavia.

Some 7,200 people have been reported killed since March.

After weeks of intense battles, Bosnia-Herzegovina's presidency formally declared a state of war in the former Yugoslav republic Saturday, triggering automatic mobilisation of Territorial Defence Reserves.

But the move had no apparent immediate impact on Sarajevo. Gen. MacKenzie said he started his time-count at 1600 GMT on June 20. If there were no ceasefire after 12 hours, he would set his watch back to zero and start counting again.

Asked if he was about to do so at noon Sunday, he said: "That's something I'll share only with the two sides ... the ball's in their court."

A solid 48-hour truce was UNPROFOR's minimum condition before proceeding with operations to reopen Butmir Airport in preparation for an airlift to 300,000 starving and desperate civilians.

"If you ask me I think (MacKenzie) has to fix his clock," Mr. Simovic said. "It's pure Russian roulette out on the streets."

He said gunfire had eased somewhat in the first daylight hours "but that's just the normal rhythm."

Gen. MacKenzie said UNPROFOR's 80 military observers were "all set and ready to go" if fighting abated sufficiently to allow them to take over the airport from Serbian forces and oversee the withdrawal of Serbian artillery to a safe distance.

If that step could be completed, the peacekeepers would then advise U.N. headquarters in New York that 1,000 Canadian troops should be dispatched to fully secure the airfield.

Warfare continued in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina and in neighbouring Croatia. Zagreb Radio said there were sporadic artillery attacks in the ports of Dubrovnik and Sibenik.

Meanwhile, one of the leaders of Bosnia's Croats says his army,

which took the key city of Mostar last week, now controls nearly all Croat-populated areas and he can set up a government.

"The only free part of Bosnia-Herzegovina is where the Croatian people organised themselves. Our first task now is to establish civil authority," said Mate Boban, president of the self-styled Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna.

He said Herceg-Bosna covered 30 per cent of Bosnia and would be an autonomous Croatian canton inside the newly-independent republic.

The Croatian Defence Council (HVO), the army of Bosnian Croats, would be the only legal army there.

Despite an accord between Croatia and Bosnia he said the HVO would not answer to Bosnia's mainly Muslim government "until the Bosnian presidency is legally elected and has power over Bosnia-Herzegovina."

"This is not possible before the war is over."

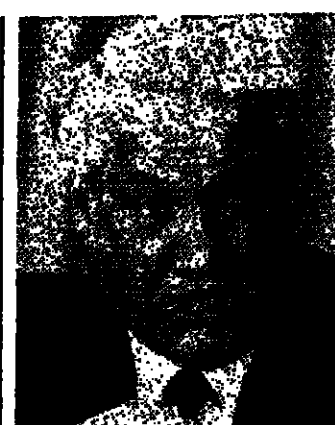
While the world's eyes have been on the Serb siege of Sarajevo, the HVO has been advancing in southern areas and has pushed Serb forces out of the regional capital Mostar, which Serbs had also encircled for more than two months.

"The war Mostar was freed was magnificent, it will go down in the annals of military history," Mr. Boban said in an interview at his base in Grude in staunchly Croat territory southwest of Sarajevo.

Mr. Boban, deputy leader of the Bosnian branch of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's HDZ party, denied claims by United Nations officials that Croatia's army was fighting in Bosnia or supplying arms.

"There are no other Croatian formations here besides us," he said.

He said only the Serb-held town of Kupres remained to be taken by the HVO.



Boris Yeltsin

Yeltsin says North America trip was success

MOSCOW (R) — A beaming Boris Yeltsin Sunday said his visit to North America had been a success, describing new arms deals signed in Washington as a big contribution to world peace and stability.

The Russian president, speaking to journalists on his return to Moscow, said the arms pact was one of 35 agreements sealed during his visit to the United States.

"I believe that the results of the visit can be described not simply as successful but as very successful," he said.

"In the past it took 15 years to achieve a 50 per cent cut in arms, now it has taken five months and two days to agree on a three-fold reduction."

Mr. Yeltsin and U.S. President George Bush crowned last week's Washington summit with an agreement to slash the number of long-range nuclear warheads by two thirds, far more than experts had expected.

The two leaders also concluded a friendship accord committing them to political, military and economic cooperation and signed new deals on investment and collaboration in space.

"This is a good basis for stability, peace of mind ... and confidence that there will be no war," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin also won Canadian backing for his economic reform programme, including promises of one million tonnes of Canadian wheat to help feed his people until the Russian harvest.

Mr. Yeltsin will visit South Korea on Sept. 16 for a three-day visit to sign a friendship treaty, the state Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) radio said Sunday.

Foreign Ministry officials were not available for comment.

KBS said Mr. Yeltsin was expected to provide Seoul with documents that may shed light on the 1983 downing of a South Korean airliner.

The plane, carrying 269 people, was shot down on Sept. 1, 1983, by a Soviet jet fighter over Sakhalin Island in the Soviet Far East. Everyone on board the Boeing 747 died.

Mr. Yeltsin, during his trip to Washington last week, said a secret document had been found in Moscow apparently implicating the former Soviet authorities.

Moscow has said the airliner violated Soviet airspace and failed to react to signals and warnings from Soviet jet fighters.

Mr. Yeltsin will deliver a speech to the South Korean National Assembly, making him the first Russian leader to do so, the radio said.

Russia talks tough on ethnic conflicts

MOSCOW (R) — Russia served notice at the weekend it was prepared to intervene, with armed force if necessary, to protect the lives and rights of Russians throughout the troubled lands of the former Soviet Union.

Tough talk from the senior leadership, in an apparently coordinated campaign, made it clear the former Soviet Armed Forces — now under Russian jurisdiction in many hotspots — were ready to step in to Communist-era ethnic conflicts.

President Boris Yeltsin, just back from a successful North American visit, told reporters at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport on Sunday he wanted to send a warning to Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

"We want to settle all matters at the negotiating table ... but when dozens of people are killed and when there is a war going on, we cannot remain idle, especially when it is happening on our borders," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"In this case, we must react to defend people and to stop the bloodshed. We have the strength to do that."

The warnings — from President Boris Yeltsin on down — come against a backdrop of escalating violence from Moldova to the Transcaucasus.

In the breakaway Dnestr Region, Russian and Ukrainian insurgents are battling the Moldovan majority, while secessionist South Ossetia is seeking to break away from Georgia and join their ethnic brethren in neighbouring Russia.

Reports from the regions indicate heavy casualties in both conflicts.

In the latest fighting, Slav insurgents regained control overnight of a key city in their breakaway Dnestr Region. Local radio said 200 people had been killed and 300 wounded in three days of fighting.

"The situation in Bendery is now controlled by separatist forces," said a presidential press spokesman speaking from the capital Kishinyov.

Earlier, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said the Russian army had to be a reliable guarantor of Russians' freedom and independence, and there should be an appropriate reaction if their rights in former Soviet republics were violated.

"I am convinced that in the event of their human rights being infringed, let alone attempts being made on their lives, an appropriate reaction from Russia is essential," Mr. Grachev told the weekly Argumenty i Fakty. Millions of ethnic Russians, dispersed throughout the former Soviet Union, now find themselves outside the "home" republic.

Many say they are subject to discrimination, harassment — or worse.

The Russian government, which met in emergency session late Saturday, demanded an immediate ceasefire in South Ossetia.

"In the event of parties to the conflict disregarding these just demands ... Russia will take all necessary measures to defend human rights and the life and dignity of the population of the region and to restore peace and law and order," it said.

Relations between the two Slav giants, the cornerstone of the 11-member Commonwealth, have been bedevilled by arguments over sovereignty as well as financial and military policies.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin said Sunday the two sides' disagreements should be eliminated through calm and businesslike talks.

"We will try to smooth sharp corners and sign some kind of a document, because of course we must live in peace with Ukraine, there's no doubt about that," he told reporters on his return from a North American visit.

Mr. Kravchuk told the Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper Thursday that Russia had to recognise his country as an equal.

"Russia only has to take one step towards Ukraine. To recognise it as an equal state. Not as part of itself, but as an equal partner ... then there will not be a single difficult issue between Russia and the Ukraine," he said.

By Friday night, even the ceasefire plan had fallen apart. Armenia blamed Azerbaijan for the setback.

Azerbaijan countered that the fault was the Armenians' because they had insisted on making a statement blaming the Rome talks for failing to condemn the Azeri offensive.

The talks were completely deadlocked when they resumed Saturday morning — with Armenia saying the main culprit was Turkey, the Armenians' historic foe. Turks and Azeris are both Muslims and speak a similar language.

According to Mr. Der Stepanian, during Saturday's session Turkey and Azerbaijan blocked a Russian proposal to call for a 30-day truce in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia and France were in favour of the idea.

After the failure of the Rome meeting, Armenia's chief delegate said his country might look to another international forum to tackle the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

The Rome talks were held under the aegis of the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

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